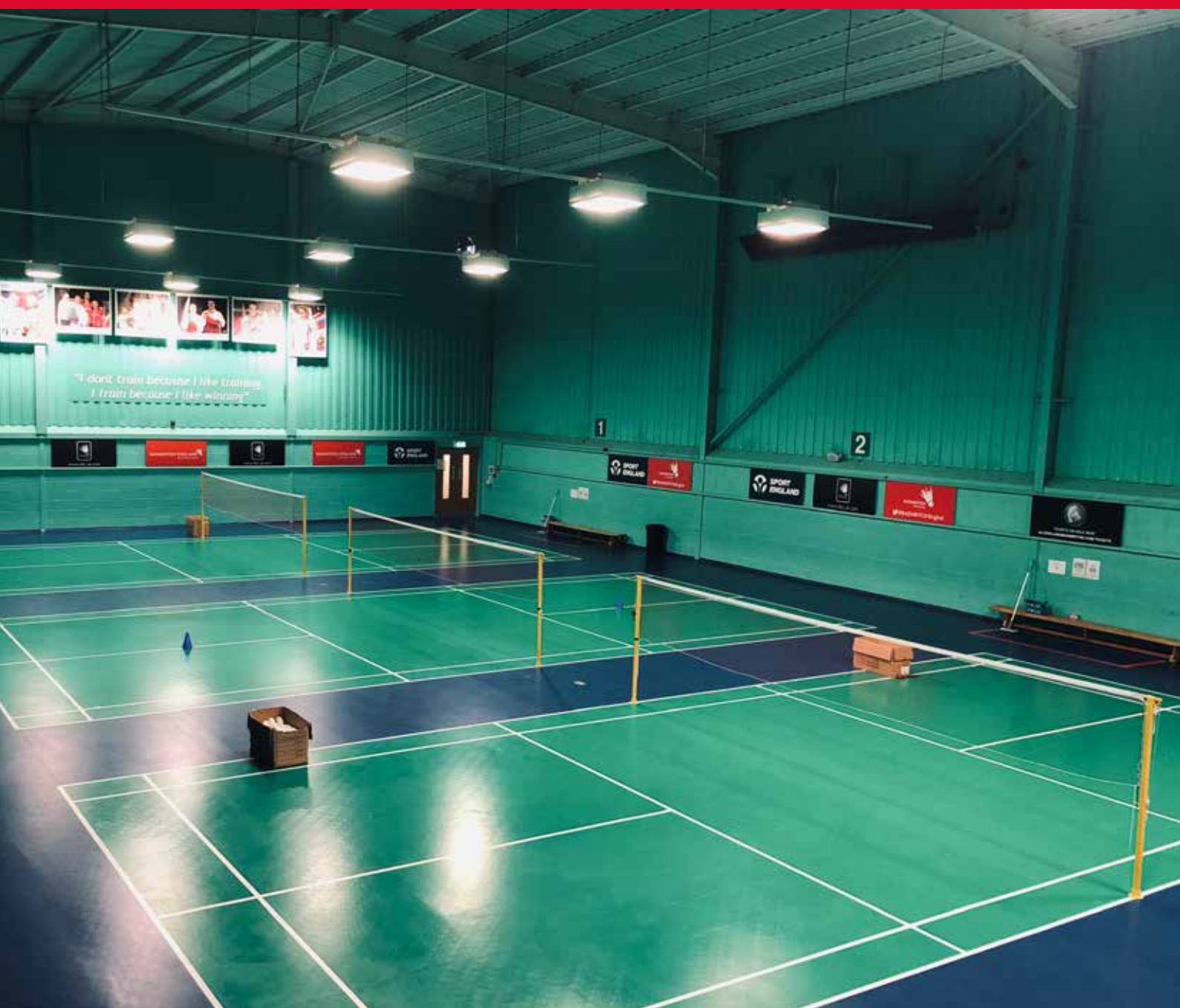


The Badminton Return To Play Roadmap - Facilities

Version 1 published September 10th 2020



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 the feedback of the badminton community and facility providers about what would help more of you to return to play. The move to Phase 3 of the plan has been possible because the badminton community has 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 and supported by facilities that have reopened their courts again. All of the 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 reopening your venues and the badminton community faces in trying to find a venue in which they can play and in ensuring that their 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 more to get back on court. We continue to do everything we can to get more venues open and to help clubs find courts to play on. I personally will be lobbying Government until all venues with badminton courts, including schools, and supported so they are open for safe play and we are keen to work with facilities to help make this happen.

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. Please also let us know if your facility is open, so that we can share this with the badminton community and together help more people get back on court. Or if your facility has to remain closed for the time being please also notify us so that we can help our clubs and coaches find alternatives so they can return to play.

I very much hope that the changes we are introducing now will help and encourage more 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

Introduction

This guidance document sets out how badminton can return to community sports facilities safely from casual court bookings, club sessions and recreational group activity such as No Strings Badminton.

Should you have any questions, please refer to our [FAQs](#) or use our [contact form](#). You will also find support, resources and further guidance to help at our return to play hub.

Alignment to 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.

What are Badminton England doing to help?

To support the reopening of facilities we are:

- Working with Government, including the Department for Education, to lobby for the additional support for the safe and efficient opening of facilities.
- Working with Sport England, ukactive and Community Leisure UK to consult commercial leisure operator partners to better understand when facilities will reopen and how we can support the opening of facilities
- Leveraging our partnerships with school facility providers to try and open doors to new and alternative venues on either an interim or permanent basis.
- Working to update our activity finder to be able to quickly and easily notify the badminton community of facilities that are open to help find alternative venues where required.

To support the safe return of badminton we have:

- Developed [guidance](#) for clubs, coaches and facilities outlining Covid19 safe and appropriate practice
- Provided free access to our [Discover Badminton platform](#) to help manage sessions including pre booking, recording participant details for track and trace and online payments
- Provided [ReActivate training](#) to give clubs, coaches and coordinators the knowledge and confidence in returning safely to play on court, and getting back to providing a valuable service to members and communities
- Run a series of webinars with clubs and coaches to outline the practical application of the guidance
- Provided tools and resources for clubs and coaches, such as risk assessment and first aid advice, via our [Return to Play Hub](#).

How can you help?

- Take time to read the following guidance and understand how badminton can safely return in your facility.
- Your feedback on the local situation regarding your facility is extremely valuable as it helps us understand the national picture and prioritise our support where it is needed most.
- To capture this, we ask that you complete our Return to Play – Venue Feedback form.
- We are keen to hear about facilities that are open and taking court bookings as well as currently closed so that we can share this with the wider badminton community. We have been able to support venues that have opened to fill up available court space by promoting their court space and working with clubs seeking venues.
- We will communicate any information we have about the reopening status of facilities via our activity finder.

Casual badminton

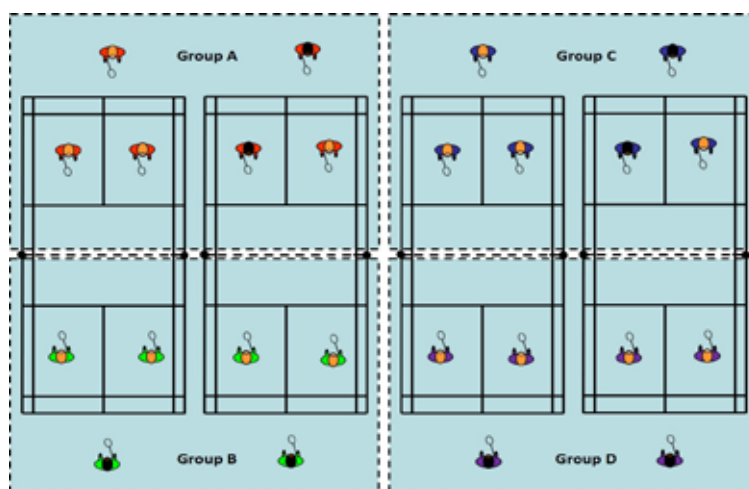
The guidance below sets out how the game can be played by your casual players given the restrictions that need to remain in place.

- 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.
- Singles and doubles can be played using all areas of the court, within the respective court markings – if social distancing between adjacent courts cannot be maintained, players should only use the singles court markings.
- We recommend that players do not change ends.
- Players are advised to limit their interactions with anyone outside of the group they are playing in (e.g. players in another group).
- Other than where players are from the same household or part of a support bubble, follow Government advice on staying alert and safe, and:
 - Stay at least two metres away from other players (including during play) as much as possible, when taking breaks and before and after play.
 - Do not make physical contact with other players (such as shaking hands or high fiving).

Club Activity

We are aware that many clubs will be resuming bookings in your facilities for their club nights and are committed to getting them back on court safely. We have produced an extensive [Return to Play guidance document](#) for our clubs to follow and a summary of this can be seen below:

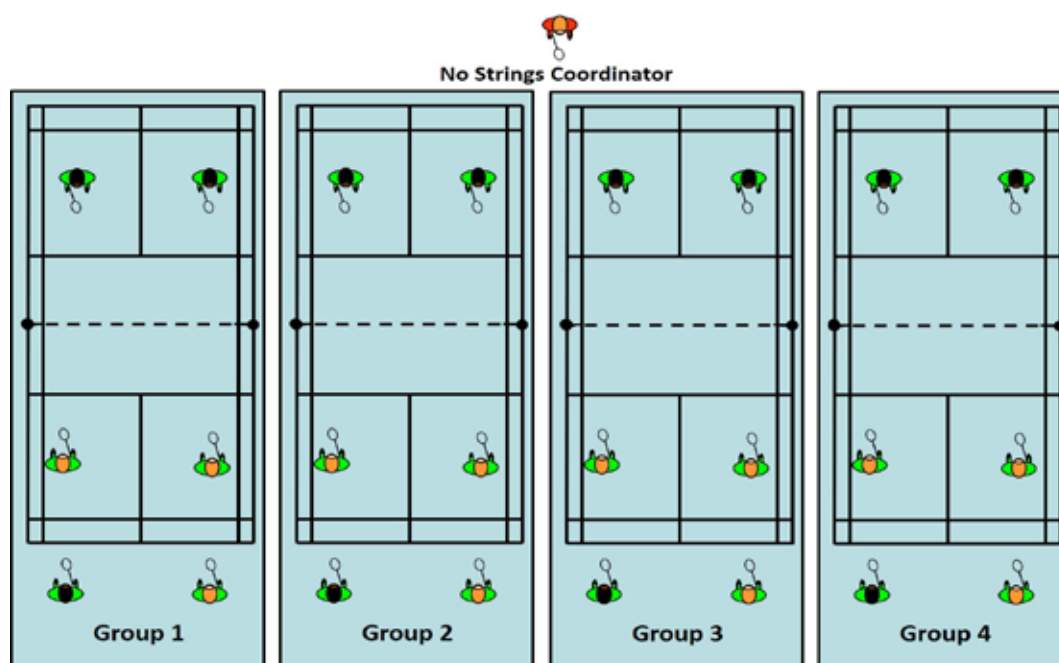
- Clubs must have a booking system in place to manage numbers within a session with records of players kept for 21 days for track and trace purposes which we have provided through our [Discover Badminton platform](#).
- A Covid-19 officer will be in place for all sessions to manage activity and ensure guidance is being followed and will have completed the [ReActivate COVID awareness training](#)
- Clubs will have an up to date [risk assessment](#) for their sessions outlining plans to adhere to Covid19 regulations
- Both singles 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
- You can have more than one group in a hall within a session providing social distancing is maintained.
- Rackets must not be shared. Shuttles can be shared within a group but must be quarantined for 72 hours after the session unless they can be cleaned and sanitised
- Club sessions can be delivered in two ways:
 - Option 1: Casual Club Play:
 - A maximum of six players can be grouped together; depending on the total space available ensuring that social distancing is maintained.
 - Players must stay within their allocated group during a session, but they can rotate within the group providing social distancing is maintained within the group.
 - Option 2: Club match play:
 - This format mirrors that now allowed for the return of league matches and offers clubs greater flexibility in club match play whilst maintaining the required group size.
 - Players can be placed in groups of up to a maximum of 6 players; they can partner for a match with any other player in their group (see diagram below).
- Coaching is allowed during club activity following a ratio of 1 coach to 15 players maximum
- Players will arrive ready to play



No Strings sessions

The latest return to play guidance and indoor facilities reopening means No String sessions can restart again. Where possible, we encourage leisure facilities to restart their No Strings Programme to provide opportunities for casual players to access organised activity. The following are recommendations to support the restart of your No String sessions:

- A booking system in place to manage session numbers and keep records of players for 21 days for track and trace purposes – we have provided this free to coordinators through our [Discover Badminton platform](#).
- The No Strings coordinator should take on the [Covid19 Officer responsibilities](#) and have completed the [ReActivate COVID awareness training](#).
- Sessions should be managed in bubbles of 6 with multiple bubbles allowed in the hall at one time. Players must not switch bubbles within a session and must not join another bubble during the same day
- To allow the No Strings coordinator to facilitate the session and maintain social distancing guidelines they should not take part in play.
- Shuttles can be shared within a group of players but must be quarantined for 72 hours after the session unless they can be cleaned and sanitised. Rackets should not be shared.
- Players should arrive ready to play to reduce usage of changing facilities pre and post session.



If you like to discuss your No Strings programme or require further information please contact nostrings@badmintonengland.co.uk

Coaching

As more courts open up again for badminton, coaches will be looking to restart their coaching sessions again. We have produced an extensive [Return to Play guidance document](#) for our coaches to follow. Key points are:

- A coach can coach on a ratio of up to 1: 15, with players being split into separate groups of no more than 6 players.
- You can have more than one group (up to 15) in a hall. This depends on the space available, your ability to maintain social distancing and maintaining sub-groups of no more than 6.
- Players can rotate within their individual smaller sub-group but social distancing must be maintained within this sub-group. They cannot move sub-groups or to another larger group within a session.
- A coach (or assistant coach) is needed for each group (up to 15) if any coaching is to take place. Players cannot move between groups during a session.
- When coaching children group sizes should be limited to no more than 15 children (plus a coach).
- Rackets must not be shared. Shuttles can be shared within a group of players but must be quarantined for 72 hours after the session unless they can be cleaned and sanitised
- Coaches are permitted to coach another group after the conclusion of each session but guidance above should be followed in each session.
- 1-1 coaching allowed with coaches able to deliver multiple sessions within a day

Spectators/Parents

- Spectators are not permitted unless a child is playing in which case, one parent/carer may be permitted per child to supervise their child while following social distancing guidelines.
- As long as social distancing guidelines are met, parents/carers do not count towards the group size.

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.

Disclaimer

Please note that the subject matter covered in this guidance is in no way exhaustive and the material does not stand on its own nor is intended to be relied upon as a substitute for obtaining specific legal advice. Individual circumstances will differ. The information contained in this guidance is given in good faith but any liability of Badminton England or its professional advisors (including their respective members or employees) to you or any third party which may arise out of the reliance by you or any other party of the contents of this guidance is hereby excluded to the fullest extent permitted by law. Badminton England and its professional advisors accept no duty of care or liability for any loss occasioned, whether caused by negligence or otherwise, to any person acting or refraining from actions as a result of any material in this guidance. We would strongly recommend that you consult professional advisors on specific issues before acting or refraining from action on any of the contents of this guidance.

