

Badminton England Safeguarding Guidance

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A PARENTAL GUIDE TO CHOOSING A BADMINTON CLUB

BADMINTON ENGLAND 

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We all want the best for our children and want them to be happy in whatever they choose to do but what should you be looking for when you are selecting the best badminton club for your son or daughter to join?

There seems to be a plethora of badminton academies, centres or clubs, some are in purpose built halls with the majority based on school sites or in leisure centres (public or private) and many of these claim to be the best. But what exactly does the best mean and which will be the best fit for your son or daughter?

Do you simply look at the results of the club or at the wider implications of a well governed club that has the interests of its young people first and foremost? Results alone can be very misleading and a successful club will balance results alongside effective, safe and inclusive management, it does not have to be one or the other.

We recommend you read this guidance and also look at our brief checklist [here](#). Any club that has the interests of young people at its heart will welcome you asking the right questions before you and your child together make the decision to join.

Is the Club affiliated to Badminton England?

Check if the club is affiliated to Badminton England. If they are affiliated to their local County Badminton Association, they are also affiliated to Badminton England.

This 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 Badminton England competitions and discount on event tickets. We also invest in some clubs, encourage them to use our programmes and help them to develop the next generation of young players in a way that supports our national objectives.

Does the club hold Premier Club status?

Premier Club is the national benchmark for a quality junior badminton 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!



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Are the badminton coaches qualified?

Ask if the coaches at the club are qualified to coach. If a coach has a Badminton England 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.

A badminton coach should also be on the Badminton England coaching register as they will have public liability insurance (providing they are within the turnover threshold). Being a registered coach also means that Badminton England has completed the necessary background check (DBS check) on the person and agreed that they may work with young people. You can find registered coach information from our website: <https://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/coach/find-a-coach/>

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 it may also be possible for an assessment of their coaching qualifications to be validated through Badminton England systems.

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.

If the club has adopted 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 either when there is an issue, or simply for advice. Ask who the club welfare officer is and how you or your child can contact them.

Are key club personnel DBS checked with Badminton England?

We check all roles which fall into the category of 'Regulated Activity' this includes coaches, team managers and welfare officers. www.badmintonengland.co.uk/DBS



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Club Management

Are you made aware of **Codes of Conduct** in the club – i.e., 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 **Badminton England 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? A **welcoming and inclusive club** will invite potential newcomers 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 positive future is one with many adults and young people involved in its management.

Are you and your child given a positive welcome? If you are given a welcome leaflet or similar 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!

Finding other local clubs

More information on clubs in your area is available on the Discover Badminton club finder at www.badmintonengland.co.uk and perhaps your county website.

Safeguarding information is available from: www.badmintonengland.co.uk/safeguarding



PARENTAL CLUB CHECKLIST

Key questions	Yes / No	Don't know
Is the club affiliated to Badminton England?		
Does the club hold Premier Club status?		
Safeguarding & Coaching		
Does the club adopt the Badminton England Safeguarding Policy?		
Does the club have a Welfare Officer?		
Do the coaches hold a Badminton England coaching qualification?		
Are the coaches registered with Badminton England?		
Is the club clear about who has DBS checks with Badminton England?		
Does the club promote Codes of Ethics and Conduct?		
Club Management		
Does the club adopt the Badminton England Equality Policy?		
Are you invited to attend a club session / watch a match in advance of joining?		
Does the club hold social events outside of badminton?		
Is the club run by a well organised and proactive committee?		
Have you checked the club's social media presence?		
Were you given a 'welcome leaflet' or other helpful club information?		