

# Badminton England Safeguarding Guidance



6.0

# A PARENTS GUIDE TO CHOOSING A BADMINTON COACH

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 a badminton coach for your son or daughter? The badminton coaching workforce is extensive across the country and it can be confusing with the various coaching qualifications that coaches hold. So how do you choose the right coach for your child?

Consider the following questions when selecting someone to coach your child:

## Are they a Coaching Member of Badminton England?

A badminton coach should be a current Badminton England Coaching Member. Being a Coaching Member means that Badminton England has completed the necessary background check (DBS check) on the person and agreed that they may work with young people. It also means they will have public liability insurance in place (providing they are within the turnover threshold). You can find a searchable list of Coaching Members, including details of their qualifications and other credentials on our website:

<https://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/coach/find-a-coach/> or alternatively you can ask to see the coach's membership card.

## Are they appropriately qualified to coach your child?

Coaches are required to hold a coaching qualification to be a coaching member of Badminton England, however there are different levels of coaching qualifications which enable coaches to do different roles. These fall into three clear categories:

1. Assistant Coach qualification: This allows an assistant coach to support and assist a coach in the delivery of a coaching session. Anyone with an assistant coach qualification is not qualified to coach your child independently.
2. Coach qualification: This upskills a coach to plan and deliver technical and tactical coaching sessions independently to meet the needs of the player.
3. Head Coach qualification: This builds on the knowledge from the Coach qualification and enables a coach to plan and deliver annual coaching plans, with a focus on high performance.

For more information on what category the coach's qualification falls under please visit our website:

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## Do they have the appropriate knowledge, experience and interests to coach your child?

Whilst the coach you are considering might have the right coaching qualification to coach your child, it might not mean they are the right coach for them. Every badminton coach will have different experience, strengths, specialisms, and interests which effects which players they are better working with. For instance, some coaches will be much better suited to working with those learning the game for the first time whilst others may well be more performance focused and suited to working with players towards the elite end of the game. Have an open and honest conversation with your coach, telling them what you are looking for from a coach for your child whilst also asking them what their strengths and interests are.

## Can they connect with your child?

It is often said that a child needs to know you care before they care what you know. This should apply when selecting a coach for your child. Does the coach's personality and delivery style suit your child, and will they then be able to connect to maximise their experience with the coach? Can you see them being a role model for your child? What did your child think of them – did they like the coach? Again, having a conversation with the coach should assist you with this.

## Have they completed the appropriate safeguarding training?

A coach appropriately trained in safeguarding will understand 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. We recommend to our coaches that they attend the UK Coaching Safeguarding and Protecting Children workshop every three years.

## Do they have appropriate first aid training or support in place?

It is important that any coach that coaches your child can provide first aid should it unfortunately be required. This might mean the coach is first aid trained themselves, working alongside someone who is trained or is coaching in a venue that provides first aid support.

