

## Appendix A - Badminton England County Competition Eligibility:

The following regulations apply to all **BE County Representative Competitions, including but not limited to; Senior County Championships, Masters County Championships, Masters County Challenge, U18 Inter Counties Tournament.**

All players must be in good standing with BE and be either; a playing member of BE or registered with BE if they are member another national association affiliated to the Badminton World Federation.

A player shall be eligible to represent a County if they:

- i) Were born in that county
- ii) Currently reside in that county
- iii) Currently in full time education in that county
- iv) Previously or last represented county
- v) Player has previously resided in county for at least 3 consecutive years

A player may not represent more than one county during the same season without special dispensation.

If a county proposes to use a player who has played for another county in the preceding season that county must notify the match secretary of the previous county, and BE Competitions Team, of the change as soon as it is known and before the player plays for the new county for the first time.

Junior County; players must be below the qualifying age as per BE age groups.  
Masters County; players must fall within the qualifying age groups at the start of the tie.  
Masters participating in the Masters' County Championships and Masters County Challenge must represent the same county in both competitions if there is a team entered in the appropriate age group, however if such a team is not entered the player may represent another county provided they are otherwise eligible. Requests shall be carried out as per a Special Dispensation Request, following the process laid out.

Should a county be in any doubt regards a player's eligibility then these should be made in writing to BE Competitions Team by following the Eligibility Appeals process laid out.

BE reserves the right to grant special dispensations. Requests can be made by following the Special Dispensation Request process laid out.

### Transferring County

If a county proposes to use a player who has played for another county in the preceding season(s) that county must notify the match secretary of the previous county and BE Competition & Events Team of the change as soon as it is known and before the player plays for the new county for the first time. It is the responsibility of the new County to ensure that all players meet the qualification criteria and may be required to provide evidence to such effect.

## Definitions

### i) Were born in that county

A CBA be requested to supply a copy of the players' birth certificate if or when required. County of birth will be determined using the County Boundaries.

### ii) Currently reside in that county

A player is considered to be resident in a county where, for the time being, it is usual for them to live and forms part of their regular and habitual mode of life for more than 183 days and nights of the year (1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> July). If residence is less than 183 days of the year then special dispensation is required.

In considering whether a person is resident, all the circumstances of the particular case will need to be considered and evidence to support the case by providing:

- i) Two pieces of documentation from the list below. Players may provide evidence in their parents or legal guardians' name.
- ii) Can demonstrate that they will be at this address for 183 days of the year as part of their regular life (e.g. reason for change, personal circumstance, work, school, family, property, social ties). Where the player is over 18 and has not provided two pieces of documentation in their own name then further evidence may be requested.

#### Documentation for proof of address:

- Current lease/tenancy agreement showing name and address.
- A mortgage statement from a recognised Lender (issued within the last 12 months).
- Residence you are named on the Land registry (e.g. solicitor's letter confirming recent house purchase or land registry confirmation).
- Household bill e.g. council tax, utility bill, current television license, fixed line telephone (not mobile phone, satellite/cable TV or internet printed bills). (Issued within the last 6 months).
- Current full UK photo-card driving license or paper driving license, showing name and address. A provisional licence is only acceptable for individuals aged under 18.
- HM Revenue & Customs (Inland Revenue) tax document e.g. tax assessment, statement of account, PAYE coding notice, tax credits. It must contain your full name and current address (issued within the last 12 months). Please note pay slip, P45s and P60s are NOT acceptable.
- Notification of entitlement from the relevant agency confirming the right to benefits, state pension, educational grant, or other government/local authority grant (issued within the last 12 months).

For valuable documents you may prefer to send us certified copies rather than the original documents.

### iii) Currently in full time education in that county

The county will be determined for the place of education based on the admissions address. Proof of education may be required, whereby the following will apply:

By law, all children between 5 and 16 must receive full-time education that meets their needs (e.g. if they have special educational needs). This may be at school or home educated. For players over the age of 16 to count as a full-time student, your course must:

- i) last at least 6 months (where you are required to attend for at least 24 weeks of the year)
- ii) involve at least 12 hours tuition or work experience per week during term time

As a guide this includes full-time college or university students, postgraduates, student nurses, apprentice schemes.

Documentation for proof of education:

- Letter of admission from the School, or letter from the school that demonstrates you are at that school.
- UCAS letter or student loan agreement from a Local Education Authority (issued within the last 6 months).
- Certificate of student status provided by your university or college (it is a requirement of the law for them to provide you a certificate if requested for up to a year after you complete your course).
- Council Tax Exemption Certificate that shows you are recognised as being in full time education.

It might be necessary for a class schedule to be requested, or list of courses you are registered to attend in order to demonstrate at least 12 hours tuition or work experience per week.

#### **iv) Previously or Last represented that county**

BE records of recognised County Tournaments will be used. The regulation understands that a player may have taken a break from competing, and therefore is returning to the game after a leave of absence. This regulation allows for the player to represent the county they previously qualified for, before the leave, even if circumstances have changed according to criteria b and c.

Alternatively, BE recognises at some point in the players past, they will have represented the county under the regulation eligibility criteria, either at Junior or Senior levels, even if represented other county(s) since.

#### **v) Previously resided in county**

As with criteria b, a player must be able to provide evidence that it was usual for them to live and formed part of their regular and habitual mode of life for more than 183 days and nights of the year (1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> July). If residence is less than 183 days of the year then special dispensation is required.

### Eligibility Appeals Process

Should a county be in doubt regards a player's eligibility and can provide good reason or evidence to suggest that they may not be eligible then the following process shall be followed.

For the avoidance of doubt, any play from the voided 2019/2020 season cannot be used as proof as having previously played for a county.

- i. The county in doubt must raise its concerns with BE, setting out clearly the basis for them. These should be addressed to the Head of Competition via [competition@badmintonengland.co.uk](mailto:competition@badmintonengland.co.uk) and copied to the county(ies) whose nomination(s) have raised concern(s).
- ii. BE shall respond within seven days to acknowledge receipt.
- iii. BE will contact the relevant county whose responsibility it will be to provide evidence on behalf of the player within 28 days of notice. During this period the player may continue to play; however, this is at the risk that results may be discounted at a later point if found ineligible.
- iv. Where appropriate evidence has been supplied **to the satisfaction of the SCC Management Group** then BE will confirm the player's eligibility to both counties involved.
- v. If the appropriate evidence cannot be provided by the County within 28 days, then the player will be deemed ineligible until appropriate evidence can be supplied and will no longer be permitted to play. The County may submit a Special Dispensation Request for that player following the process laid out.

### Special Dispensation Request

- viii. A County may submit a request for special dispensation (SD) for a player. The request must be submitted to the Head of Competition via the appropriate form on the BE website (or from Head of Competition).
- ix. BE will acknowledge receipt of the request and notify all counties within seven days. Within a further 7 days, any other county may ask for a copy of the request from Badminton England. Any other county may, within 21 days of that supply, submit comments and/or further information for consideration.
- x. The SCC Management Group will consider the original request and any comments and/or further information supplied by other counties.  
NB. Any failure of the requesting county to explain why a player cannot represent one of the counties for which that player is otherwise eligible will lead to automatic rejection of the request. xi. The decision of the SCC Management Group is final and cannot be appealed.

If SD request is of sensitive nature, a county may request case details not to be shared to wider SCC community, only to impacted counties. With generic details provided only. This may be managed on a case-by-case basis.

When sharing with other counties, only players name, counties affected and generic details are to be shared. Affected player will have control of what is shared.

