

JUNIOR GOLD CIRCUIT

GUIDE 2025

The Junior Gold circuit is the highest tier of domestic competition circuit providing regular competitive opportunities for the best players to gain high quality competitive matches.

The following guide is intended to provide some key points for hosts under 19, 17, 15, 13 and 11 Junior Gold Circuit tournaments to ensure the successful delivery and best possible experience for players.

It is not intended as a complete guide to running a tournament or using tournament planner. More information on these is available from on the Badminton England website page for Tournament Organisers [here](#).

- Tournament Organisers Guide
- Tournament Planner Guide
- Regulations for Tournaments
- Codes of conduct (players, officials, parents)

As part of the role of the Circuit Management Group (CMG), we have allocated specific representatives to provide support and oversee the running of the U17/15/13/11 tournaments to ensure that they are run in a consistent manner and provide an extra level of checking:

- U19 Gold – Paul Harper: paul@harper-family.me.uk
- U17 Gold - Eric & Helen Richardson: eric.richardson@btinternet.com / helen.e.richardson@btinternet.com
- U15 Gold – Eric Brown: eric827@btinternet.com
- U13 Gold – Roger Cook: roger.cook60@ntlworld.com
- U11 Gold – Sam Evans: glostournaments@gmail.com

Referee Liaison

Contact the appointed referee ahead of the entry closing date to make them aware of arrangements and the timeline; contact Competition Team if you are not sure which referee has been allocated. Useful items to include:

- Venue Address and useful information (catering, set-up, parking, etc...)
- Venue court bookings start and finish for both days
- Umpire attendance on Saturday and Sunday
- *Timeline:*

<i>Closing Date</i>	<i>-17 days</i>
<i>TP file shared with Ref & CMG rep (agree acceptance numbers)</i>	<i>-16 days</i>
<i>Seeding & Selection (Ref & CMG rep to check, publish once agreed)</i>	<i>-11 days</i>
<i>Scheduling (Ref & CMG rep to check)</i>	<i>-10 days</i>
<i>Acceptance published and emailed</i>	<i>-8 days (no less than 7 days before)</i>
<i>Draw published</i>	<i>-2 days (48 hours before)</i>
<i>Event days</i>	<i>0 days</i>

- **Team:**

Tournament Secretary/Match Control
Local deputy referee – if you are appointing one
Court Managers
Young Officials
Umpires

Sports Hall Liaison

Contact steveemptage@badmintonengland.co.uk if you need a contact and confirmation on booking details. Liaise directly with the venue regards set-up for any chairs, tables and PA system that you might need.

Umpire Liaison

Badminton England shared the dates of the Junior Gold at the start of the season; however, we recommend making contact again with the Umpire Regional Secretary for your Gold tournament 2-3 months before the tournament date to begin confirming arrangements.

- Saturday: 2 x Duty Umpires
 - 1 court should be a dedicated court with all matches umpired to provide active duties for the umpires, leaving one available in case an umpire was then requested to another court where an issue was happening.
- Sunday: 4 Courts to be umpired (+SJ if fewer courts)

North Region	Cheshire, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Durham, Isle of Man, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire	Nicola Read secn@buaofe.org.uk
Central Region	Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Warwickshire, Worcestershire	Pradip Songara secc@buaofe.org.uk
South Region	Avon, Berkshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Somerset, Surrey, Sussex, Wiltshire	Ian Johnstone secsw@buaofe.org.uk

Copy in regionlead@buaofe.org.uk on any communications to the regional secretaries.

Umpire travel/accommodation costs are re-charged from the BUAofE directly with Badminton England. Umpires should book their own accommodation where needed based on the guide below:

Travel time	Overnight before the first day	Overnight between match days
<60min	X	X
60-90min	X	✓
>90min	✓	✓

Entry Administration

- Publish the entries regularly. Recommend weekly and then increase the regularity to every other day and then daily in the last week as more entries are received (this will reduce the number of queries you get).
- Do not accept late entries – otherwise this sets a precedent for everyone.
- Do not accept players who have not paid – otherwise this sets a precedent for everyone.
- If anyone is unable to pay online for whatever reason, then direct them to the Competition Team (competition@badmintonengland.co.uk) and they will be able to take payment. We do not want you to be handling cash on the day. This goes for players substituting on the day, just ensure the Competition Team know to bill the player after the tournament.

Singles - Gold and Gold Star

U17 and 15 Gold singles are split into Gold and Gold Star (does not apply to U11, U13 or U19): Players must enter Gold Singles in the normal way, and once the entry has closed the singles event will be split into two, Gold Star and Gold Singles. The number of players selected in the Gold Star singles will be determined by the overall singles entry size as listed below:

Overall entries	U17/15 (Number of Gold Star entries)
24+ players:	12 players will be selected (4 groups of 3) ■
16-23 players:	8 players will be selected (2 groups of 4) ■■

■ Withdrawals from Gold Star events where 12 players are selected, will be replaced by players in Gold Singles draw from top down only up until the draw is published

■■ Withdrawals from Gold Star events where only 8 players are selected will not be replaced once the seeds and acceptances have been published and the draw done.

Withdrawals from Gold Singles events can be backfilled from players on the reserve lists as normal up to the start of events.

You will need to move the players accepted into the Gold Star event. The remaining players will be considered for the Gold Singles.

NOTE: Where entry for either WS or OS is 15 or less then there will only be a Gold singles for that event, ie WS or OS. Players would be allowed to withdraw but usual refund policy applies.

An ordered list of reserves should be published for Gold Singles and Doubles events (Note there is no reserve list required for the Gold Star Singles as, where applicable [see table above], withdrawals are replaced with Gold Singles players from 1st position down).

Seeding and selection should be updated following withdrawal/player changes up to the point of making the draw such that the draw is made with a full allocation of seeds and players in all events. Players can be promoted from the Gold into the Gold Star, at U15 and U17 age groups, as directed by the table above. After the draw has been published, players can no longer be promoted from the Gold into the Gold Star singles. Only withdrawals from the Gold singles and doubles can be substituted.

Once the draw has been published, it is at the referee's discretion whether a redraw is necessary due to withdrawals unbalancing the draw.

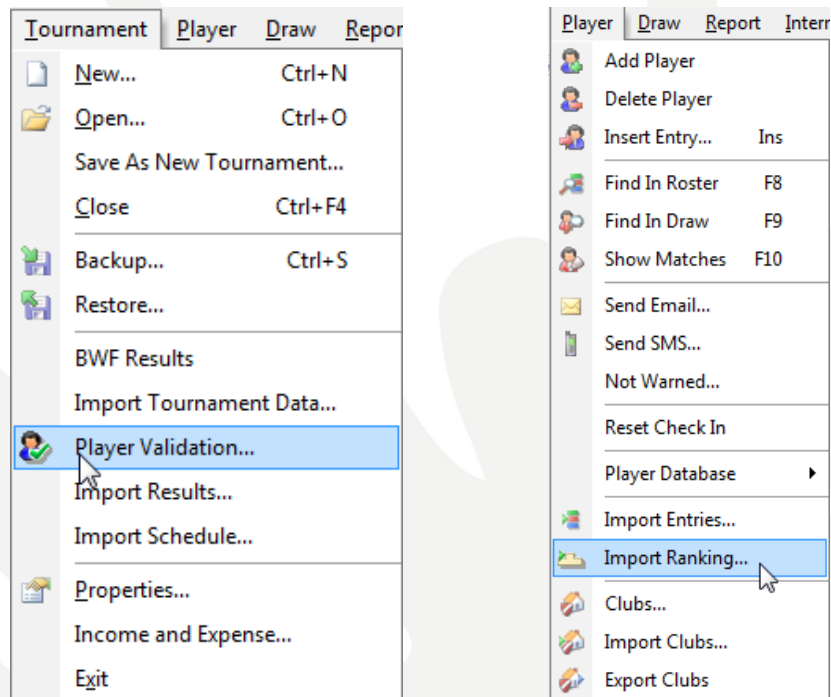
Seeding & Selection

- As far as possible the number of entries accepted should be the same for girls and boys and to the draw sizes indicated in the 'Guide To Scheduling Golds' spreadsheet, found on the Tournament Organiser's website page. If events are undersubscribed, then it might be possible to take more players in another event but check with your Circuit Management Group representative, or Competition Team.
See the Guide to Scheduling Golds for entry assuming a full entry.
- If selection is required it will be made by accepting the highest graded players first, followed by their individual ranking. In 'Roster' click on column headed Ranking then on column headed Level which will order players in grade order. This should only be changed in the case of non-resident players who do not have a ranking (see 'Non-Resident players' section).
- In doubles events, entered pairings should be accepted before formed pairings (ie. Partner Wanted entries).
- If you are able to accept players 'partner wanted', look at the player who is highest graded-ranked and give them first choice over selecting their partner from those on the partner wanted list.

Top Tip: Validation and Import Ranking on Tournament Planner

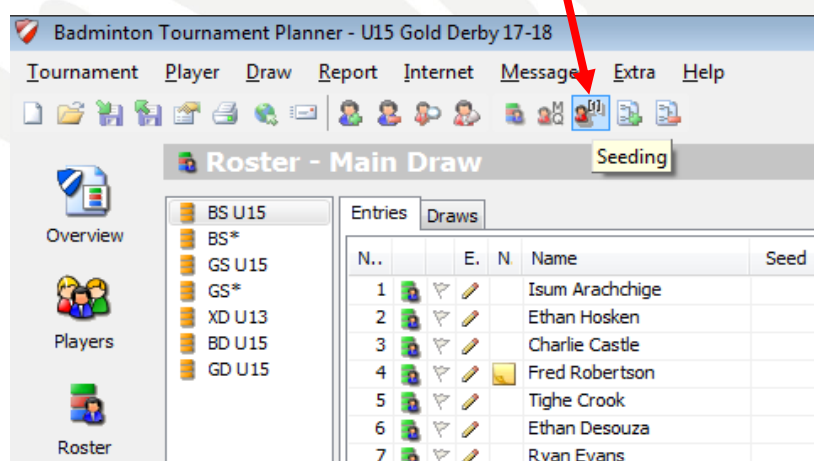
- Validation checks player membership, details and imports the player's grade and some National Ranking information. Players entering online will all be active members; however, you may need to check any that have been added manually.
- Also use tournament planner to import the player rankings.
- Don't forget to select the grade and/or ranking list that was active on the closing date. For example, if the closing date was 25th September, and you validate and import the rankings a

week later there will be a more recently published grade and ranking lists from the end of September. However, you must use the lists that were active at the point of entry closing on 25th September which would have been from August.



Top Tip: Seed automatically by Grade then Rank in Tournament Planner (but look out for non-resident players).

1. Click on the 'Seeding' button as shown below.



- 2.
3. Click down and select 'Level' to order the players by Grade. The list will automatically keep players in order of Ranking with Grading when you do this.

Automatic Seeding - BS U15

Order: **Ranking**

Main Draw

	Name	Seed	Rating	Ranking	Points	L
1	Prithvi Sekar			318	5030.00	G
2	Luke Salwey			322	5011.00	G
3	Isum Arachchige			346	4809.00	F
4	Charlie Castle			356	4763.00	F
5	Fred Robertson			365	4669.00	F
6	Ethan Hosken			370	4617.00	F
7	Jeremy Kurian George			373	4571.00	G
8	Harry Wakefield			374	4564.00	G
9	Ethan Desouza			377	4539.00	G
10	David Lang			384	4487.00	G
11	Ryan Evans			395	4401.00	G

Type: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6... ☐ Do not seed players without ranking

Seed: 0 1 2 4 8 16 32 64 128 Close

4. Click 'Type' and select the second option down.

Automatic Seeding - BS U15

Order: **Level**

Main Draw

	Name	Seed	Rating	Ranking	Points	L
1	Isum Arachchige			346	4809.00	F
2	Charlie Castle			356	4763.00	F
3	Fred Robertson			365	4669.00	F
4	Ethan Hosken			370	4617.00	F
5	Prithvi Sekar			318	5030.00	G
6	Luke Salwey			322	5011.00	G
7	Jeremy Kurian George			373	4571.00	G
8	Harry Wakefield			374	4564.00	G
9	Ethan Desouza			377	4539.00	G
10	David Lang			384	4487.00	G
11	Ryan Evans			395	4401.00	G

Type: 1, 2, 3/4, 5/8... ☐ Do not seed players without level

Seed: 1, 2, 3/4, 5/8... 8 16 32 64 128 Close

5. Finally, select the number of players you want to seed in the bottom row. Double check that the seeds have been correctly selected in the roster.

N.B. The number of seeds required for various entry levels are:

# of Players / Pairs	# of Seeds
3 – 11	2
12 – 23	4
24 – 47	8
48 – 128	16

6. Check for any non-resident players who may have been overlooked by this and may need to be seeded (see below).

Note: Seeding and selection can only be appealed where grade followed by rank order is not used to determine the positions. I.e. Where a player does not have a grading and a ranking – in the case of Junior Gold, generally this applies to non-resident players (see below).

Non-resident players

If there is a player from Scotland, Wales, Ireland or any other non-resident player they will not appear on the ranking list. The tournament committee should attempt to determine the player position in selection and seeding, and then consult with Badminton England for agreement. N.B. The Circuit Management Group has allocated someone from the group to be a contact for each age group and they can be contacted direct for advice.

- Non-resident player grades may not always be accurate, so the level of non-resident should always be investigated further.
 - If the non-resident player has a grade, this may be taken as an indication/guide of their standard. Note that the more results (BE circuits) they have, the more likely this is to be accurate.
- Wales, Scotland and Ireland have their own ranking systems which you can check their strength order. Some also have a grading system. The relevant national governing body can be contacted to give their view on the relative order of strength of entries if you have multiple entries from one country.
- Head-to-head results: Use the Badminton England compete pages to look at the players against other players in recent tournaments – last 12 months, and potentially 18 months.
 - Where possible always use direct head-to-head with players at the relevant selection cut-off point.
 - You can request the players to provide you with any relevant results they believe support the tournament committee, particularly where they may not have played many BE Circuit tournaments. However, they may present a one-sided view.
- There needs to be enough evidence to support their selection ahead of players with a ranking.
- Confirm your decision/proposed thoughts with the CMG Rep. as per list above.

Draw & Group Sizes

- The draw needs to be completed by yourself through Tournament Software.
- All disciplines excluding Mixed in U13 age group now played in groups (NB U19 Gold can be either KO or Group format). Group sizes, where entry dictates a full draw (see Guide to Scheduling Golds):
 - U11 – groups of 4 in all events
 - U13 – 3 in all events, except mixed which is straight knockout
 - U15 – 3 in all events, except mixed which is 4
 - U17 – All events in groups of 3
 - U19 – when played in groups, the average group size is generally 3
- Note the following if you have some groups of 4 in the gold singles or doubles:
 - Players in the pools with seeded players. Gold players will often be beaten easily by the seed and therefore provide more competitive games for players within that group and better value for money.
 - In addition, if there are byes in the KO round, these will be placed such that the seeds are provided the bye, so it will be easier to schedule.
 - If there are more groups of 4 than seeds, then place these progressing into a bye in the KO round if possible (depends on your number of groups progressing into KO).
 - If there is a late withdrawal which you cannot find a reserve in time, it may be possible to move players out of a seeds group which is easier than into a seeds group.

Schedule

The schedule needs to be done by yourself and approved by the referee and CMG representative.

NOTE: Standard schedules have been developed by the BE Circuit Management Group for U11 Gold tournaments (based on 6 courts) and U13, U15 & U17 Gold tournaments (based on 8 courts) along with the recommended number of players to be accepted in each discipline. (See “Guide to Scheduling Golds”). These must be followed wherever possible and **any** variation from these schedules and player numbers **MUST** be agreed with the CMG representative beforehand.

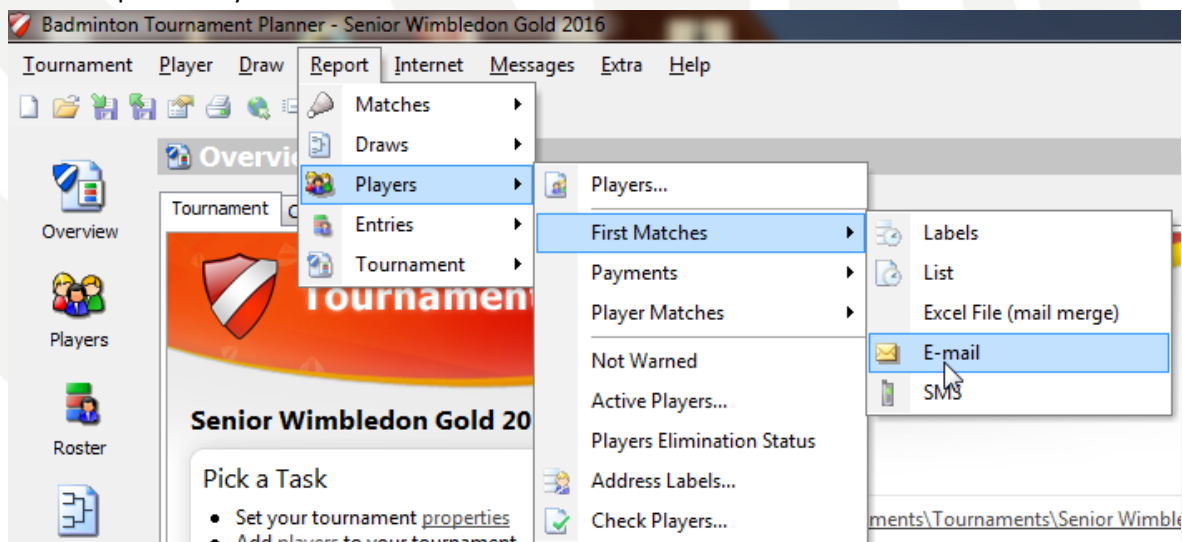
- Two-day event (U17/15):
 - Up to and including quarter finals on Saturday
 - Semi-finals and finals of both the Gold Star and Gold Singles taking place on the Sunday. (NB: There will be no semi-finals in the Gold Star singles if only eight players are accepted.)
- No competitor shall be obliged to start before 9am or commence a match after 7pm (Under 11 or younger), 8pm (Under 15/13) and 9pm (Under 19-16) on a Saturday. Play should finish no later than 4-5pm on a Sunday.
- Match times for the first-round matches must be entered into tournament planner in order to produce player acceptance/timing letters from tournament planner.

Player Acceptance and Timing Letters

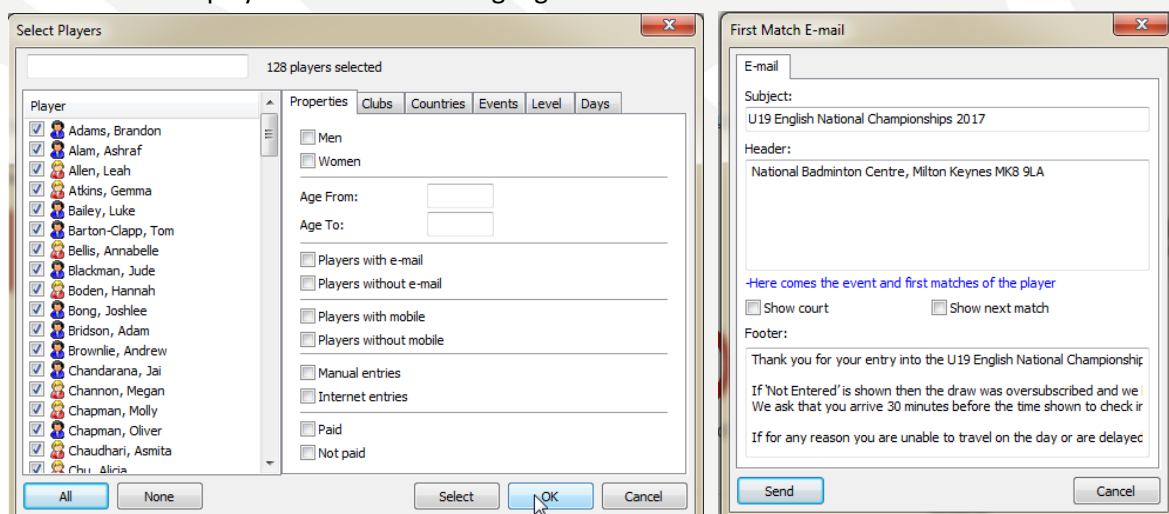
Players should be provided with acceptance/timing letters that provide their first match times for each event. If matches are scheduled in tournament planner, then this can be sent from tournament planner automatically.

- Recommended Acceptance/Timing letter text is provided in the attachments.

1. Select Report > Players > First Matches > Email



2. Select 'All' so all players tick boxes are highlighted and then 'Ok'



- Here you can enter all the relevant player information, and tournament software will automatically add their first match times in each event. Contact Competition Team for latest recommended wording.

Example:

Subject = Event title, Header = Venue Address, Footer = all other text.

U17 English National Championships 2016-2017

National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes MK8 9LA
Thank you for your entry into the U17 English National Championships 2016-17 in association with Nationals Series partner Yonex. Please check the details above carefully for all events you have entered. Please contact jonhancock@badmintonengland.co.uk if you have any queries.

First matches of Neil Bhabuta

Event	Time
BS U17	Sat 01/04/2017 10:15
BD U17	Sat 01/04/2017 17:15

If 'Not Entered' is shown then the draw was oversubscribed and/or we have not been able to find you a partner and you have been listed as a reserve. You will be contacted if there becomes a space/partner available.
We ask that you arrive 30 minutes before the time shown to check in, change and warm up in order to begin play at the time specified for your first match. Any competitor arriving late is

Subject

Header

Automated first
match times

Footer

Note: Image above shows BS and BD but, from 2023, this should be OS and OD.

- Website confirmation – it is recommended to send using website confirmation so that you can then view if players have read the message.

Withdrawals

You will need to keep track of any withdrawals that take place, adjusting the draw as required.

- Invite a reserve as soon as possible – it may be worth giving them a response deadline so that you can ask another player if they cannot confirm.
- If a player withdraws from the doubles event, their partner has the option to find an alternative partner before withdrawing.
 - Partner must already be entered into tournament (not necessarily in that event – ask player to contact Competition Team to pay by card, over the phone, post-event).
 - If they cannot find a partner by the given deadline, then invite from 1st reserve on list.
- Remember to keep the referee in the loop with any changes made.

Refunds

- A player is charged a £10 admin fee if they were accepted into the main draw. If on the reserve list, then a full refund is given after the tournament.
- A player does not receive a refund if they withdraw within 48 hours of the tournament if they were in the main draw.
- For doubles, where the initial withdrawal of their partner has led them to withdraw if they cannot find a replacement partner, they are entitled to a full refund.

- Keep a list of changes so that you can pass the correct information to BE afterwards to make refunds. We will aim to refund within 2 weeks of the event if we receive the lists from yourself in the first week.

Health Issues and Photography

As part of the entry process, players are required to complete information to make you aware of any health issues that you should be aware of, and if they do not want to be photographed.

Create a list of players, using 'Report' option, into an excel file list to view this information more easily.

Welcoming players/spectators at the event

This can be done in conjunction with the referee on the day. You may wish to include some of the following information:

- Ensure players check-in at the match control desk.
- Any health and safety announcements – fire exits.
- Introduce the team for the day – referee for queries, if there are any umpires.
- Any information relevant to the players – are the results being published online?
 - Best of 3 to 21 (with setting).
 - Period for knock-up is 2 minutes on court.
 - No Advice/Coaching is allowed at U11, U13, and U15. Advice/Coaching is permitted at U17 & U19 during intervals but must not disrupt play.

Top Tip: Set check-in to 'per player' in tournament planner under 'Properties' > 'Draw'.

Check-in players on tournament software. In the matches list, right click the match as per below:

	Sat 09/09/2017 09:00	XD U15	R32	#2	Isum Arachchige+Pranathi Koneru			Daniel Kite+Jasmine Owen
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:00	XD U15	R32	#3	Samuel Baker+Lavigne Leung			Luke Salwey+Tilly Dale
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:00	XD U15	R32	#9	Vidun Wedaged...+Grace Sachdeva			David Lang+Sofia Bao
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:00	XD U15	R32	#4	Oliver Harrington			Stephanie Rowarth
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:00	XD U15	R32	#10	Fred			Joseph Scott
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:00	XD U15	R32	#11	Et			Natasha Morris
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:00	XD U15	R32	#13	Joe			
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:00	XD U15	R32	#14	Zac			
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:00	XD U15	R32	#6	Hayd			
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:00	XD U15	R32	#7	Aksh			
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:00	XD U15	R32	#8	Luk			
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:00	XD U15	R32	#15	Thoma			
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:30	BS U15 - Group 2	RR1	#2				
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:30	BS U15 - Group 3	RR1	#1				
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:30	BS U15 - Group 5	RR1	#1				
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:45	XD U15	R16	#17	Samuel Jon			
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:45	XD U15	R16	#18	S. Baker+L			
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:45	XD U15	R16	#19	Danie			
	Sat 09/09/2017 09:45	XD U15	R16	#20	A. Narayan			
	Sat 09/09/2017 10:00	BS U15 - Group 1	RR1	#2				
	Sat 09/09/2017 10:00	BS U15 - Group 1	RR1	#1				

Post event

- Publish the results from Tournament Planner.

- Complete the online referees report – click [here](#) (It is the referees responsibility to complete this report).
- Submit a list of players to be refunded competition@badmintonengland.co.uk
- Return unused shuttles to Badminton England (host organisations may retain any used shuttles). FAO Neal Junker-Siarey, Badminton England, National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes MK8 9LA.