

Badminton England Return To Play Update

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Introduction

On 22 February 2021, the Government set out its roadmap out of the current lockdown. Badminton England welcomes this announcement and we have begun to consider our own roadmap for the return of badminton, in accordance with all Government measures.

Although it may still feel like restarting is further away than we would like, we are pleased that players, clubs, leagues, counties, coaches and volunteers across the country can now begin to plan the return to play.

As with previous easing of restrictions, detailed Government guidance for sport will be published as we get closer to each step to clarify what is permitted. However, this roadmap provides an outline of how badminton can return, based on current guidance, and provides the opportunity for you to consider when you can start playing again.

We will update our return to play guidance on our website as more detail becomes available to help our clubs, counties, coaches, volunteers and players get back on court safely. Currently, we are working closely with facility providers to understand availability and to access courts as quickly as possible.

For many it will be a long time since you were last able to hit a shuttle and we are sure that you will want to get back on court as soon as possible – keep an eye on our website and social channels as we launch fitness, playing and competitive opportunities over the summer.

This has been an incredibly difficult year in so many ways and as the roll out of the vaccination programme continues, we can begin to look forward to getting back on court once again.

As before, we remain available to provide help and support to any members or groups on your return to play – we will release updated resources and guidance documents at our return to play hub on www.badmintonengland.co.uk or you can contact us directly via our [contact form](#).

Let's Talk Badminton

We are also really keen to hear from you and to make sure that we are supporting the badminton community as best as possible. To do this, we are launching 'Let's Talk Badminton', our largest ever consultation exercise. This will comprise a series of online consultations, player surveys and drop-in sessions that will allow everyone involved in badminton to help shape the return to play and come back stronger than ever.

Playing badminton

More detail on specific playing conditions will be provided as Government guidance is updated. The steps below provide more detail on what is permitted at each step of the Government roadmap and what activity we expect to return at each step.

Roadmap

Step 1
8 March

- Schools reopen
- **Curricular and extracurricular/out of school hours delivery** of badminton in schools permitted – schools have final decision on what is permitted – see Government guidance
- **Pathway players** – socially distanced training for pathway players at recognised elite training venues

Step 1
29 March

- Rule of 6 or two households applies outdoors; organised outdoors sport permitted
- **Recreational (self-organised) outdoor badminton** – permitted with maximum 6 players or two households
- **Organised (by club/coach) outdoor badminton sessions** – permitted; no limit on gathering size
- **Outdoors 1-1 coaching** – permitted

Step 2
12 April

- At least five weeks after Step 1, no earlier than 12 April
- Indoor leisure centres permitted to reopen; adult activity permitted for individuals or household only; Young people activity permitted (Under 18s – includes those 17 on 31/8/20 who have turned 18 since)
 - **Adults** – household only singles or doubles permitted
 - **Young people** – junior clubs/organised sessions/coached sessions/recreational activity – all permitted with no limits
 - **1-1 coaching** – young people permitted; adults TBC
 - **Competition** – localised junior tournaments and junior leagues permitted
 - **Recreational/outdoor badminton** – permitted with maximum 6 players or two households

Step 3
17 May

- At least five weeks after Step 2, no earlier than 17 May
- Rule of 6 or two households indoors; domestic travel and overnight stays permitted; gatherings of up to 30 permitted outdoors
 - **Adults** – singles and doubles (TBC) permitted under rule of 6 or two households; clubs/No Strings Badminton/organised sessions/coached sessions/recreational activity – all permitted
 - **Competition** – junior circuit tournaments permitted local adult leagues under rule of 6
 - **Coach education** – courses to resume under rule of 6

Step 4
21 June

- At least five weeks after Step 3, no earlier than 21 June
- No legal limits on social contact
 - **Play** – all play permitted
 - **Competition** – senior circuit tournaments and adult leagues permitted
 - **Coach education** – courses permitted with no restrictions

