



Protocols for Clubs **Returning to Play Badminton** following the Covid-19 Restrictions

From June 7th





Return to Restricted Play

Always follow the Government Guidelines of Good Hand Hygiene – Respiratory Etiquette – Social Distancing

The protocols in this document relate to the 'Path Ahead' for the Irish Government's Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business.

This phase:

Permits individual training that is physically distanced, non-contact activity, completed in a pre-defined area, within a controlled environment and without the sharing of equipment.

Safe every step of the way

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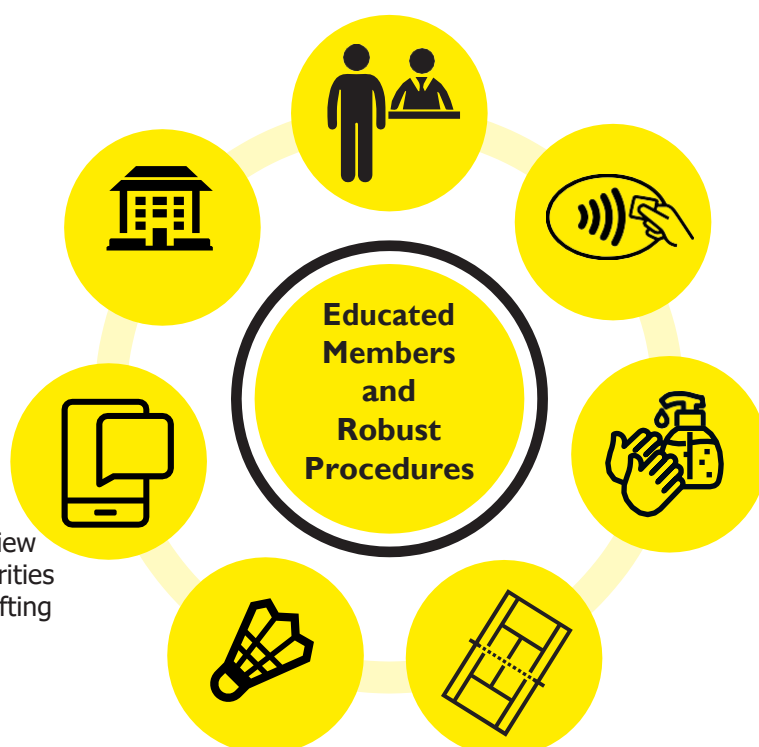
Badminton is a safe, life-long, and family-friendly sport that caters for players of all abilities. Badminton provides both great physical and mental health benefits for our players. However, we must ensure that all those participating in the sport can do so within a safe environment.

These protocols prepared by our team in line with the roadmap for reopening society, outlines the robust measures Badminton Ireland would like clubs to implement and maintain to help safeguard staff and members during the COVID-19 pandemic. This will allow all of us to get back on court, safely, improving the wellbeing of members across the country.

The protocols, which relate to the easing of the current Covid-19 restrictions, cover each step of the journey from home to the club and back home again.

These protocols should be in place seven days a week and until further notice.

Our protocols and procedures are under constant review and updated as advice from government, health authorities and governing bodies evolves in line with the gradual lifting of social restrictions.





1. Club Covid-19 Committee

Badminton Clubs must appoint a COVID-19 Officer (this can be an existing officer of the club) or COVID committee responsible for managing issues and queries relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. This committee should:

- Ensure they review and confirm that the club can comply with all of the protocols outlined before reopening their club.
- Ensure that the club and its members adhere to HSE / Public Health advice in all cases.
- Ensure that sufficient HSE Covid-19 information Posters are in place
- Complete/Update the Badminton Ireland COVID-19 Risk Assessment
- Implement a court rotation system that allows for staggered play and allows time between play for players to exit and enter court without interaction. If this cannot be done players must be informed on the need for physical distancing while entering and exiting the courts and wait in a designated waiting area.
- The club must maintain accurate records of who is playing and when. This should include all persons on court and those in the hall (if suitable space is available to allow players to wait in the venue) awaiting their designated playing time. This must be carried out for coaching sessions as well, and in the case that a parent/guardian is present in the club that must also be recorded. This will help with contact tracing if necessary.
- Be responsible for informing all members of the Covid-19 protocols and insist on full cooperation
- Ensure that the contact details (phone and email) for all members are up to date as this will assist with contact tracing should it be necessary
- Engage with your venue provider and ensure they are compliant with government guidelines.
- Listen to feedback and contact Badminton Ireland if there are issues not covered under these protocols

2. Venue Access

In the initial period following a club's re-opening, access to the venue/hall should be limited as much as possible

Courts should only be accessed by members.

Non-members can be welcomed to the club in due time, in line with the easing of government restrictions. Children should always be supervised and by no more than one parent/guardian.

To access the courts in this phase of the reopening, a player must:

- Be an affiliated member of Badminton Ireland.
- A parent/guardian must accompany any player under 18 years.
- Have not been out of the country in the last 14 days.
- Have not been around someone with symptoms of Covid-19 in the last 14 days.
- Not be in a period of self-isolation and/or cocooning under the current Health Policy Rules.
- Not be displaying COVID-19 symptoms.

It is recommended that Covid 19 Training is provided for all volunteers before the club opens.



3. Booking and Arrival

- Arranging a court time for players in advance is mandatory, preferably via a court booking system, website, app, or phone. This will assist in managing Physical distancing and contact tracing should it be required subsequently.
- Clubs must provide members with a scheduled breakdown of play for the evening at least three hours before the start of club play that evening. This scheduled should have members dedicated to time slots so that everyone is aware exactly what time to enter and vacate the facility.
- Club scheduling should ensure there is a minimum 10-minute layover between one group of players leaving the facility, and the next group of players entering the facility.
- All players should ensure their club has their up-to-date contact details (phone and email).
- Play should be limited to full court singles only during this phase of the reopening. The only exception for doubles is if playing partners are from the same household. Further doubles play will be considered in future phases of reopening.
- All players participating at club sessions should be recorded in a log. If there is a change to who is playing, this log must be updated.
- Players should travel to the club alone, or only with a member of the same household.
- Ample car parking spaces should be available to ensure Physical distancing. If players must park next to another car, they should wait for the other person to exit or enter before doing so themselves.
- Players should arrive at the court entrance no more than 5 minutes prior to the reserved playing time. It is important that players maintain Physical distancing and wait in a pre-designated waiting area that allows for Physical distancing.
- Players should observe Physical distancing at all times and resist the temptation to mingle.
- Locker rooms should remain closed during this phase. Players should arrive in playing attire and change footwear at the car or at home.
- Players should sanitise their hands using dispensers provided at the entrance to the club and courts.
- Players should head straight to their designated court unless required to check-

in.

- Players should use the toilet facilities in their own home prior to arriving at the club, where possible.

4. Venue Facilities

- Protocols for cleaning the venue facilities should be agreed with the venue provider prior to opening and during operation.
- Access to facilities such as toilets should be agreed with the venue provider and communicated to the membership.
- Players must use their own racquets and equipment where possible.



5. To the Court

- Play should be restricted to full court singles play only in this phase of reopening. The only exception for doubles is if playing partners are from the same household. Doubles play will be considered in future phases of reopening.
- Courts that are side by side can be utilised provided Physical distancing can be maintained.
- Players should enter the court one at a time
- Rubbish bins should be removed, and all items brought on court should be taken home afterwards.
- Other court furniture should be removed including scoreboards and chairs/benches.
- Any player(s) repeatedly not following the club directives should be asked to leave the club
- Nobody but the players should be allowed on the court. There should be no spectators present during this phase of reopening
- Parents supervising children should be limited to one
Players should wear face masks/coverings whilst not playing on-court, in the facility.

6. On the Court - Playing

- Physical distancing should be observed throughout the period of play and entering and exiting the court. Players should avoid changing ends during this phase.
- Clubs should ensure minimal crossover of players in groups through appropriate scheduling.
- Players must refrain from handshakes and high fives
- Equipment such as towels, food, and drink must not be exchanged between players. Players should be encouraged to bring their own drinks and towels.
- Players should avoid touching their face after handling a shuttle, racket, or other equipment.
- Players should ideally bring a small bottle of hand sanitizer with them and keep it in their pocket or bag for use.
- Players should use their racket / foot to pick up shuttles and hit them to their opponent and should avoid excessively handling shuttles.
- Players should remain apart from other players when taking a break.
- If a shuttle from another court comes across, players should send it back with a racket.



7. On the Court – Coaching

- Coaches should prepare and present a Risk Assessment document and get approval to coach from the Covid 19 Committee
- Clubs should ensure all coaches are licensed with Badminton Ireland.
- Coaches must wear a face mask/covering when conducting a session in line with HSE guidance.
- Coaching sessions should be booked and recorded.
- Coaches should brief their students and/or their parents of the protocols that should be followed in advance of the session
- Coaching should only be provided to members of the club.
- Coaches should ensure a player has registered/updated their contact details with the clubs.
- As much as possible, coaches must try to remain on the same court and adjust their schedules in order to stay on-site for the minimum amount of time required.
- Exercises that allow for Physical distancing are required.
- Coaches should limit the number of shuttles used and not use basket drills or feeding during this phase.
- Do not let players manipulate the practice equipment. Coaches should take charge of picking up the shuttle.
- Players should use their racket or their foot to push shuttles back
- Coaches can work with two players who are not from the same household on one court but only when players are at opposite sides of the net to each other. In this instance, coaching should not take place where players are side-by-side on one half of a court.
- Coaches can coach a maximum of 4 players from the same household on one court at any one time. Physical distancing measures should always be followed and such procedures for doing so should be outlined in the risk assessments being prepared by Coaches.

8. Getting Home Safely

- Once play has finished players should leave the premises promptly, sanitising their hands on the way out using a courtside dispenser.
- Clubs should agree the cleaning procedure with the venue provider. It should be ensured that thorough cleaning of accessible areas is done and ensuring that all “touch areas” are cleaned thoroughly daily
- If a player becomes unwell after playing, they should first contact their GP/HSE and then inform their club. The club should contact the HSE and follow the advice provided to them on the next steps.



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