

BADMINTON WALES RETURN TO COURT ROADMAP

Return to Court: The starting point

“The coronavirus will remain a serious risk to us until a vaccine or an effective treatment is available. So, as we start to consider moving out of the rigid but effective control measures that we first put in place, we are clear that this is a process of managing, not eliminating risk.

Much as we might want it to, ‘normal’ life will not be possible for many months – possibly years”.

[Welsh Government - Unlocking Our Society and Economy](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives and our sport drastically. Training and competition venues across the world closed, and our sport’s activities were suspended. With a view to the future, Badminton Wales has developed a roadmap for returning to the court. These guidelines are intended as recommendations for all members of the Badminton community to continue to enjoy and participate in our sport during the current global health emergency, and to return to a shared enjoyment of it in the future.

The guidelines are our proposed ‘traffic light’ approach to returning to the court with further guidance to complement as we move through.

We are closely monitoring and continuously evaluating the situation in relation to the pandemic. Being aware of the current situation, following WG guidelines and adjusting our habits accordingly will enable us to continue to practice our sport and gradually return to regular training and competition practices.

Badminton Wales continues to work in collaboration with other National Governing Bodies and our partners Sport Wales, Welsh Sports Association and Welsh Government to understand how these changes will take effect in our Sport.

Current Regulations: -

Exercise, playing sport and games

Lockdown

Exercise once a day outside of house on own or with household.

Red

Exercise more than once a day and incidental activity locally.

Outdoor sports courts to open. Elite athletes resume some activity.

Amber

Team and individual sports, non-contact sport and games in small groups indoors and outdoors. Some outdoor events with limited capacity and events behind closed doors for broadcast.

Green

All sports, leisure and cultural activities open, with physical distancing. All events resume with limited capacity.

The Traffic light phases for ‘Seeing family and friends’ and for ‘Getting around’ are also of particular relevance to decision making.

Guiding Principles

The safety and wellbeing of our Elite Performers, Members, Clubs, Coaches, Officials, Volunteers and the wider community is at the heart of any guidance that Badminton Wales distributes. We know that everybody in the Badminton Wales family will be keen to resume Badminton activities as soon as it is safe and appropriate for them to do so.

Our priority, as we begin our journey back to court, will be to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone in the Badminton community.

The guidance that follows provides sport specific advice however it is important to note that any return to activity must take account of local conditions and any risk assessment for normal activities should be undertaken as well as ensuring that all government guidance around Covid-19 is taken into account.

It is the responsibility of each athlete, coach and facility to make that assessment based on their local environment. Risk assessments must take into account mitigations and plans for when activities do not go as expected. Planning scenarios around, for example, an injury occurring to a player and the need to support that athlete while distancing should be undertaken – risk assessment template is available from BW.

HEALTH	If you are having any doubts or concerns about the risk to your health or that of others, stop and re-assess!
STAY UP TO DATE	How will you ensure that those you are with are following the latest guidelines?
BEFORE-DURING-AFTER	What do you need to do before taking part? Have you assessed the risks?

When lifting restrictions please consider the following at a local level:

- Can the measures be implemented effectively in practice?
- How will you clearly communicate the changes to all without disadvantaging any parties?
- Will you need to provide extra encouragement or incentives to bring people back to the sport?
- Ensure you consider any consent issues – any decision to participate should be voluntary and informed.

 **RETURN TO COURT ROADMAP** 

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LOCKDOWN



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



1

RED

ELITE



2M DISTANCE

2

AMBER



VENUES



COACHING



**SMALL
GROUPS**



TRAVEL

3

GREEN



CLUBS



OFFICIATING



COMPETITION



**COACH
EDUCATION**



Lifting lockdown in each area of our sport

Different elements may progress through the traffic light phases – from Black to Green at different rates depending on Welsh Government advice. It's important to note that 'Green' is not a return to a pre-COVID19 normal, it's going to be a phase where the sport is functioning alongside the virus and could last some time.

Element of the sport	Lockdown	Red Phase 1	Amber Phase 2	Green Phase 3
Elite Athletes	Solo training, or with family members, at home or within walking distance of home.	Elite Athletes to resume some training. Small group of identified athletes return to training.	BWPP Players restart training in small groups in line with Public Health Wales & Welsh Government guidance. Travel restriction lifted to travel to facilities to train.	All Indoor Facilities to open Training resumes at all facilities with risk management measures in place at all venues in line with Public Health Wales & Welsh Government guidance.
BW Members	Exercise with members of your own household. Outdoor Badminton can be played with family members, at home. BW Shuttle Time Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badminton At Home • Couch to Court 	Exercise as unlimited times outside and within the local area. Outdoor Badminton can be played with a person from another household following guidelines. BW Shuttle Time Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badminton At Home • Couch to Court 	Indoor Facilities to open with venue specific guidelines and protocols in place. Indoor Badminton to restart with restrictions on group numbers. Only singles be played with distancing measures in place.	Indoor Facilities open with specific guidelines and protocols in place in line with PHW and WG guidelines. Singles and Doubles can be played.
Clubs	Face to Face Club activity cancelled, clubs maintain remote engagement with members.	Face to Face Club activity cancelled, clubs should maintain remote engagement with members. Clubs to plan for a potential return to facility use and engage with facility operators/providers where appropriate.	Indoor Facilities to re-open with venue specific guidelines and protocols in place. Easing of Travel restrictions.	Indoor facilities re-open with venue specific guidelines and protocols in place. Face to face club nights resume - restricted by Government guidelines on numbers of players

	Solo training, or with family members, at home or within walking distance of home.		<p>Clubs to work with facility providers to develop a safe Return to Use Plan at the dedicated Badminton facilities.</p> <p>Play restricted to Singles to observe distancing regulations in place (unless from the same household). One to one coaching with distancing restrictions.</p> <p>Training in small groups as facility allow in line with PHW & Government guidelines.</p> <p>Meet in small groups.</p>	<p>gathering at one time and distancing measures in place.</p> <p>All formats of playing, training and competition resumed at all venues in line with PHW & Government guidance.</p> <p>League badminton may resume whilst maintaining distancing in line with PHW and WG guidance.</p>
Facilities	All facilities closed	<p>Limited availability of outdoor facilities.</p> <p>Limited re-opening of facilities for Elite Performance Athlete returning to training.</p>	All facilities able to open with restrictions in line with PHW & WG guidance.	All facilities able to open with restrictions in line with PHW & WG guidance.
Coaching	<p>All face to face activity suspended. Online training only and support via media platforms.</p> <p>Existing Code of Conduct to be followed & safeguarding protocols adhered to.</p>	<p>All face to face activity suspended except for BW Performance Coaches working with Elite Athletes who have resumed training.</p> <p>Online training/coaching only and support via media platforms.</p> <p>Existing code of conduct to be followed & safeguarding protocols adhered to.</p> <p>Identified Elite Athletes/Coaches return to training.</p>	<p>Return to coaching/leading activity with one other person or small group as facilities allow in line with published Public Health Wales & Welsh Government guidance.</p> <p>Coaches able to travel to facilities to meet athletes for training.</p> <p>Existing code of conduct to be followed & safeguarding protocols adhered to.</p>	<p>Individual and group Face to Face Coaching resume at all facilities in line with PHW and WG Guidance.</p> <p>Existing Codes of conduct to be followed & safeguarding protocols adhered to.</p>



Competition	All competition and leagues suspended.	All competitions and leagues suspended.	All competition and leagues suspended.	Local and BW sanctioned Competitions may resume whilst maintaining distancing in line with PHW and WG guidance.
Officiating	All competition suspended.	All competitions suspended.	All competitions suspended.	Officials should be able to resume 'normal' event roles at local events in line with PHW and WG guidance.
Education	All face to face delivery suspended.	All face to face delivery suspended. Online learning modules & webinars.	All face to face delivery suspended. Online learning modules & webinars.	Online learning modules & webinars. Face to face courses to resume in line with PHW and WG guidance.
Running the sport – Governance structures & staff working	Online meetings & home working.	Online meetings & home working. Face to face meetings at outdoor venues resume only where necessary and with distancing measures in place.	Limited office availability for staff to work in groups of up to 4 with distancing, cleaning, sanitising and hygiene measures in place having conducted a Covid-19 risk assessment.	Office working and face to face meetings resume where required with distancing, cleaning, sanitising and hygiene measures in place.

At each stage of reopening access to sport, the following questions set out by Welsh Government should be considered.

The seven questions the Welsh Government will ask when it considers relaxing any part of the lockdown restrictions are:

1. Would easing a restriction have a negative effect on containing the virus?
2. Does a particular measure pose a low risk of further infection?
3. How can it be monitored and enforced?
4. Can it be reversed quickly if it creates unintended consequences?
5. Does it have a positive economic benefit?
6. Does it have a positive impact on people's wellbeing?
7. Does it have a positive impact on equality?

More information available from the [Welsh Government website](#)

Further guidance

In addition to this high-level roadmap of how we intend to unlock Badminton in Wales, we will be publishing more detailed guidance to help each element of the sport return safely. These documents will continue to be reviewed and new versions published as required:

Document	Version & Publication date
Badminton Wales Return to Court Roadmap	V1 – 22 nd June 2020
Elite Athletes – Return to Play	V1 - 16 th July 2020
Return to Court – Coaching guidance	Coming soon
Return to Court - Members & Club guidance	Coming soon
Return to Court – Competition guidance	Coming soon