

RETURN TO PLAY

GUIDANCE FOR VENUES, CLUBS AND PARTICIPANTS

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INTRODUCTION

Sporting activities can now be undertaken providing all activity is consistent with current Scottish Government guidance on health, physical distancing and hygiene – you will also need to make sure that your club, facility and participants are made aware and can adapt to changes in guidance at short notice. Information on Scottish Governments approach to managing covid-19 is available at [Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland](#) .

People who are symptomatic should self-isolate for 10 days; household members for 14 days as per info on NHS guidance. No one who is self-isolating should attend an outdoor sports facility/activity.

To manage a safe return to sport and leisure activities it is a mandatory requirement that all clubs, facility operators and deliverers put in place comprehensive Test & Protect procedures to help break chains of transmission of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Further information is available within this guidance and at [Scottish Government: Test & Protect](#).

Clubs and participants should be aware that the easing of restrictions does not mean that all facilities/venues will open immediately. Owners and operators will require time to consider all the implications of opening facilities/venues and put plans in place to re-engage staff and to set up operations that ensure the safety of participants, staff and volunteers. This is a difficult time for everyone so please be patient.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

1. Indoor Badminton can start to be played from 31 August 2020 and will depend on facility availability. Outdoor Badminton can still be played.
2. The nominated club committee, appointed [COVID-19 officer](#) or sports facility operator (herein referred to as the COVID officer) should ensure all appropriate management processes are in place so that they can effectively oversee and maintain the implementation of measures outlined herein. An e-learning module for COVID officers is available at [COVID-19 officer e-learning](#).
3. From the 24 August 2020 additional sport and leisure activities will be permitted if appropriate guidance and risk assessments are implemented.
 - 3.1 Adult outdoor contact sports training and competition in an organised setting can resume ideally with a maximum of 30 people taking part in any one session. Maximum numbers must be agreed by Scottish Governing Body of sport (SGB) and **sportscotland**.
 - 3.1.1 SGBs and clubs should consider introducing a period of contact training to familiarise participants with guidelines before undertaking competition.

- 3.2 Outdoor group coaching for organised sports and leisure activities including aerobics and fitness classes can take place for a maximum of 30 people at any one time.
4. From the 31 August 2020 indoor sport and leisure facilities are able to open if Scottish Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Guidance for the opening of indoor and outdoor sport and leisure facilities](#) is fully implemented:
 - 4.1 this includes the provision of indoor non-contact and contact sport training and competition activities for children up to and including 11 years of age and:
 - 4.2 indoor non-contact sport training and competition for those 12 years of age and over where physical distancing can be maintained.
5. Outdoor sporting events or activities involving more than 30 people should not take place at this time unless following SGB specific guidance which has been approved by **sportscotland**.
6. An indicative date of 5 October 2020 has been identified by Scottish Government for further changes to sport and leisure activity including:
 - 6.1 Limited spectator access to sports stadia.
 - 6.2 Resumption of indoor contact sports and competition for those 12 years of age and older.
7. Track and Protect measures should be implemented for all activities to assist NHS Scotland in the event of a virus outbreak.
8. It is the responsibility of each venue, club and deliverer to undertake documented risk assessment, based on their local circumstances, prior to activity taking place. Consider safety first, particularly focusing on minimising the risk of infection/transmission. Appropriate measures must be put in place to ensure participants, staff and volunteers are always protected.
9. Clubs, deliverers and operators should check with their insurance company that correct and full insurance cover is in place and valid before any activity takes place.
10. Travel guidance outlined by the Scottish Government should always be adhered to. Guidance is available at [Staying Safe and Protecting Others: Travel](#)
11. Guidance will be updated as we progress through the phases of the Scottish Government Covid-19 route map. Current updates from the 10 September are available at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Phase 3: Staying safe and protecting others](#).

FACILITY / VENUE GUIDANCE

1. From a Badminton viewpoint, indoor sport and leisure facilities can reopen from the 31 August 2020 subject to Scottish Government guidance being followed as outlined at Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on the opening of indoor and outdoor sport and leisure facilities](#).
2. The majority of Badminton is played in Leisure Trust and Local Authority venues/facilities. As referred to previously, owners and operators will require time to consider all the implications of opening facilities/venues and put plans in place to re-engage staff and to set up operations that ensure the safety of participants, staff and volunteers. Community use of school facilities may take longer to open. It would be prudent to check with your usual venue operator what their plans are for reopening plus any restrictions and booking process.
3. **sportscotland** has produced the [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#) guidance to help owners and operators of sports facilities as they prepare for when sport/activity resumes. The guidance is applicable to all phases of the Scottish Government Covid-19 route map and can be adapted to support other planning-based work being undertaken by sports, clubs and community organisations.
4. Test and Protect
 - 4.1 [Test and Protect](#), is Scotland's way of putting into practice NHS Scotland's test, trace, isolate and support strategy.
 - 4.2 Containing outbreaks early is crucial to reduce the spread of COVID-19, protect the NHS and save lives, and avoid the reintroduction of social and economic lockdown. This will support the country to return to, and maintain, a more normal way of life.
 - 4.3 Maintaining customer records
 - 4.3.1 It is a mandatory requirement that sport facility operators collect the name, contact number, date of visit, time of arrival, and where possible the departure time of all those attending facilities or activities. Where attending as a small household group, the contact details for one member – a 'lead member' – will be sufficient.
 - 4.3.2 Sports facility operators should store information for 21 days and share it when requested to do so by public health officers.
 - 4.3.3 A leaflet providing information on the Test and Protect service from NHS Scotland is also available [Test and Protect](#).
 - 4.3.4 Registration with the Information Commissioner's Office

- 4.3.5 In order to gather and store customer information securely, sports facility operators may need to be registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). This will be the case if you are using an electronic system to gather and store data.

If you are unsure whether you need to register, please contact the ICO via their helpline on 0303 123 1113, or visit www.ico.org.uk.

5. Changing rooms, showers and toilets

- 5.1 Use of changing rooms and showering facilities should be avoided where possible, although from the 31 August 2020 they may be made available for participants with disabilities or special needs or where required after an activity such as swimming.
- 5.2 Sports facility operators may open toilets for public use if they follow the guidelines outlined on the Scottish Government website [Opening Public Toilets Guidelines](#).
- 5.3 For detailed facility guidance including a checklist that covers use of changing rooms, showers and toilets visit Scottish Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on the opening of indoor and outdoor sport and leisure facilities](#).

6. Locker Rooms

- 6.1 From the 31 August 2020 access to indoor locker rooms and storage areas is permitted for the dropping off and collection of sports equipment or clothing. The sports facility operator should ensure mitigating actions are put in place to minimise the risk of virus transmission including physical distancing, hygiene and cleaning measures. Face coverings should be worn when indoors within these areas.

7. Meeting Rooms

- 7.1 Working from home and working flexibly, where possible, remain the default. The [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Phase 3: Scotland's route map update – 10 September 2020](#) states that the date that non-essential offices and call centres can re-open is still under review. Although we appreciate gym and leisure facilities are able to reopen on 31 August, we would encourage providers to consider whether internal meetings and training must be completed in person. Or whether these can be completed online or via telephone.

8. If it is essential that meetings and training takes place in person, [Scottish Government guidance for general workplaces](#) must be followed and a risk assessment should be completed.

9. Clubhouses can reopen to provide indoor bar and restaurant services if following SG guidance. Further information is available at [Scottish Government: Tourism and Hospitality Guidance](#) .
10. No spectating should take place other than where a parent is supervising a child or vulnerable adult. Physical distancing guidance should always be followed.
11. Limits on the number of participants accessing sports facilities should be risk assessed to ensure physical distancing can be maintained. This should take into consideration Scottish Government guidance on physical distancing and any exceptions highlighted within this document where sporting ‘bubbles’ are created for the duration of an activity.

12. Outdoor Courts/Open Spaces

- 12.1 Venues and clubs may re-open all sports areas, courts and pitches if documented risk assessments are undertaken and all appropriate measures are put in place to ensure the safety of participants, staff and volunteers.
- 12.2 Please refer to additional guidance produced by **sportscotland** at: [Getting Your Facilities Fit for Sport](#).
- 12.3 Activity or exercise undertaken in sports areas, courts and pitches must fully comply with Scottish Government household, physical distancing guidance with appropriate hygiene and safety measures also in place.

13. Organised Sporting Activity for Children and Adults

- 13.1 Organised indoor and outdoor sporting activity/competition for children and adults may be undertaken as outlined below and where appropriate Badminton Scotland guidance that has been approved by **sportscotland**.
- 13.2 All sport facility operators providing organised competitions must abide by relevant Badminton Scotland guidance and have a named ‘Covid Officer’ who will be responsible for completing documented risk assessments and ensuring all appropriate mitigations are put in place.
- 13.3 Definitions - for the purposes of this guidance:
 - 13.3.1 contact sport or activity is defined as “a sport or activity in which the participants necessarily come into bodily contact with one another”.
 - 13.3.2 non-contact sport or activity is defined as “a sport or activity in which the participants are physically separated by playing rules such as to make it difficult for them to make physical contact during the course of an activity. Examples include Tennis, Badminton, Cricket, Bowls and Curling.

- 13.3.3 Non-contact sports where participants would normally encroach within 2m should put in place measures to limit this risk. For instance, training only or competition with altered rules to maintain physical distancing.
 - 13.3.4 Sports competition refers to where participants or teams compete against different opponents as part of an organised league or competition.
- 13.4 Children and Young People
- 13.4.1 Outdoor contact and non-contact sport and competition can be undertaken by children and young people.
 - 13.4.2 From the 31 August 2020 this will be extended to include all forms of indoor sports training, activity and competition for children up to and including the age of 11 years.
- 13.5 Adults
- 13.5.1 Outdoor non-contact sporting activity and competition may be undertaken.
 - 13.5.2 From the 24 August 2020 outdoor contact sport training, activity and competition in an organised setting may resume with a maximum of 30 people taking part in any one session. This may, in exceptional circumstances, be increased to include for example officials, coaches and support staff (medical etc) if agreed with **sportscotland**.
 - 13.5.3 From the 31 August 2020 adult indoor non-contact sports training, leisure activity and competition may resume subject to appropriate physical distancing measures being put in place to limit the risk of participants encroaching within 2m.
 - 13.5.4 No adult indoor contact sport should be undertaken at this time.
- 13.6 All sports facility operators providing sport specific activities must abide by Badminton Scotland guidance and have an appointed 'Covid Officer' who will complete documented risk assessments and ensure appropriate mitigations are put in place before any sporting activity is undertaken. Below are the links to the Covid Officer role descriptor and e learning module.
- <https://sportscotland.org.uk/media/5950/sportscotland-covid-officer.pdf>
- [https://rise.articulate.com/share/LIEWUj-o23H_4gC1AF002jdxdrCucQC0#/
/](https://rise.articulate.com/share/LIEWUj-o23H_4gC1AF002jdxdrCucQC0#/)
- 13.7 Physical Distancing.
- 13.7.1 Children aged 11 years and younger are not required to physically distance at any time, as set out in Scottish Government guidance.

- 13.7.2 For those over 12 years of age taking part in an organised outdoor activity, a ‘field of play bubble’ can be created whilst a sporting activity is taking place, in effect suspending physical distancing guidelines for the duration of the activity. Normal physical distancing guidelines will however apply before and after the activity takes place.
- 13.7.3 For those over 12 years of age taking part in indoor sporting or leisure activity normal physical distancing rules should be followed. Risk assessments should, where possible, consider mitigating actions to reduce the likelihood of participants encroaching within 2m of each other.
- 13.7.4 No formal presentation ceremonies should take place during or after an activity or competition and the focus should be on reducing numbers in attendance at any one time.
- 13.7.5 Coaches and others supporting organised activity should attempt to keep physically distant where possible, but it is recognised that this will not always be possible. In such circumstances the responsible ‘Covid Officer’ should consider appropriate mitigating actions as part of the risk assessment.
- 13.7.6 Specific consideration should be given to supervision of children under the age of 5 years as it is not appropriate for young children to maintain the models of physical distancing that are suitable for older children, either practically or in terms of child development. You may, for instance, ask a parent to be present.
- 13.7.7 Where an employee is providing an activity, relevant work placed risk assessments and consultation should take place in advance of any activity being undertaken. See the Businesses, workplaces and self-employed people section at [Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland](#).
- 13.7.8 Parents/guardians who are supervising their children should abide by Scottish Government physical distancing guidance and stay at least 2m away from those out with their own household. Groups of parents from different households should not congregate before, during or after the activity.
- 13.8 Participant numbers and duration of organised activity:
- 13.8.1 A ‘field of play bubble’ can be created whilst a sporting activity is taking place, in effect suspending Scottish Government household number guidelines for the duration of the activity, if appropriate guidance is agreed with **sportscotland** as highlighted herein. Normal

household guidelines will however apply before and after the activity takes place for those aged 12 years and over.

- 13.8.2 Where there is likely to be close contact between participants in an organised sporting activity, mitigation should be put in place to minimise risk and keep participants safe.
- 13.8.3 The focus should be on delivering the organised activity with as few participants as possible interacting with each other and for the minimum amount of time, whilst still allowing the activity to be run effectively.
- 13.8.4 Holiday camps or extended sports activity which would not normally come under the jurisdiction of Badminton Scotland should refer to the appropriate local authority, umbrella body or care commission guidance. Organisers of these activities may alternatively wish to use Scottish Government household, physical distancing and group size limits should be applied.

14. Adult involvement and ratios

- 14.1 All adults involved in coaching / actively engaging with children or vulnerable adults in an organised environment should have undertaken appropriate safeguarding and, where available, Covid-19 training.
- 14.2 Sports organisations should always ensure appropriate ratios of coach/adult to child/vulnerable adult as per Badminton Scotland guidance and follow all related safeguarding advice.
- 14.3 Health, safety and welfare policies should always be risk assessed and implemented.

15. Health, Safety & Hygiene

- 15.1 Ensure access to first aid and emergency equipment is maintained.
- 15.2 Please ensure that first aid equipment has been updated appropriately for the COVID pandemic and first aiders have appropriate training.
 - 15.2.1 In the event of first aid treatment being required it is recognised that a suitably qualified person, coach or supervising adult may require to attend to the injured participant. The 'Covid Officer' should consider processes for managing this as part of their risk assessment. This could include but not be limited to:
 - Provision of suitable PPE
 - Training of coaches/supervising adults
 - Presence of one parent/guardian being required at the activity for children/vulnerable adults.

- 15.3 Cleaning of equipment, hand and respiratory hygiene are core measures to be implemented and provision should be made for these.
- 15.4 Clear guidance and plans are needed for cleaning of facilities and equipment, and waste disposal. For instance, common touchpoint surfaces (gates, door handles, handrails etc) should where possible be left open but if not possible, regular cleaning with disposable gloves should be undertaken.
- 15.5 Make hand sanitizers or wipes available for use at entrance/exit to venue/facility where possible. Hand sanitiser should be at least 60% alcohol based and detergent wipes appropriate for the surface they are being used on. Cleaning products should conform to EN14476 standards.
- 15.6 A checklist for health, hygiene and cleaning considerations and actions is available here: [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#)
- 15.7 Face Coverings
- 15.7.1 Sports facility operators should ensure participants and visitors wear face coverings, if indoors, before and after activity or when in non-playing areas of the facility e.g. reception, locker rooms and storage areas. This is a mandatory requirement.
- 15.7.2 Face coverings may not be required when using hospitality services such as café's, bars and restaurants. For further information refer to Scottish Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): tourism and hospitality sector guidance.](#)
- 15.8 Further health, safety and hygiene guidance is available at:
- [Health Protection Scotland: General guidance for non-healthcare settings](#)
[Health Protection Scotland: Cleaning in a non-healthcare setting](#)
[Health Protection Scotland: Hand hygiene techniques](#)
[St. John's Ambulance: Covid-19 advice for first aiders](#)
[HSE: First Aid during the coronavirus](#)

16. Maintaining physical distancing

- 16.1 At all times, venues and clubs should ensure participants adhere to the Scottish Government's physical distancing guidelines before, during and after the activity or when taking breaks.
- 16.2 Please ensure to follow guidance from Badminton Scotland, club or operator on maximum numbers able to take part in the activity.
- 16.3 Access through an indoor area can be provided if suitable risk assessments and safety measures are put in place. These should include restricting access to one person at a time, ideally with a one-way system in operation, and no

contact with hard surfaces such as door handles. Persons moving through the area should not stop or congregate at any time.

- 16.4 A checklist for physical distancing considerations and actions is available here: [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#)
- 16.5 Further information on physical distancing guidance is available at [Staying Safe and Protecting Others](#) .

17. Coaching and Instructing

Guidance for coaches, leaders, personal trainers, and instructors is available at [Getting your coaches ready for sport](#) .

- 17.1 From 24 August 2020 coaches can take organised outdoor group training sessions with a maximum of 30 people involved at any one time.
- 17.2 During outdoor group training sessions appropriate risk assessed physical distancing and hygiene measures should be put in place to protect participants.
- 17.3 Indoor coaching will be able to commence from 31 August 2020. This will depend on venue availability. There are no restrictions for coaching children 11 years and under. For 12 years and over, physical distancing has to be maintained and there should be no more than 6 players per court. Groups cannot mix or be changed during the sessions.
- 17.4 Coaches and instructors working with children should familiarise themselves with the additional considerations developed by **Children 1st**: [Child Wellbeing and Protection Considerations](#) .

GUIDANCE FOR PARTICIPANTS

The following guidance can be used to support participants. Consider using it in the context of before, during and after the activity.

18. Stay up to date

- 18.1 Scottish Government information is available at [Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland](#) .
- 18.2 Be aware that guidance can change, and restrictions may be reintroduced - ensure you have checked the latest version of guidelines for your activity.

19. Travelling to and from an activity/venue

- 19.1 Please check before you leave that toilet facilities will be available at the venue.
- 19.2 Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before leaving home. Information on hand hygiene is available at: [Health Protection Scotland: Hand hygiene techniques](#)
- 19.3 Where possible avoid using public transport and adhere to Scottish Government physical distancing and travel guidelines: [Scottish Government Phase 2: Staying safe and protecting others](#) .
- 19.4 Arrive as close as possible to when you need to be at the venue/facility and allow others to leave before you enter. If you need to wait, then do so away from the facility and clear of the gates.
- 19.5 Take your own hand sanitiser to the venue and use regularly throughout the activity.
- 19.6 Take your own hydration / food to the venue.
- 19.7 If driving, park your car in such a way as to facilitate physical distancing.
- 19.8 Avoid touching fixed equipment including gates, fences or benches.
- 19.9 After completing your exercise/activity return directly to your car (if appropriate) and leave.

20. Test & Protect

- 20.1 [Test and Protect](#), is Scotland's way of putting into practice NHS Scotland's test, trace, isolate and support strategy.
- 20.2 The gathering of contact information from anyone attending sport/leisure activities or facilities in a secure and safe manner, will assist NHS Scotland's Test and Protect service to identify any clusters of cases, contact those who may have been exposed to the virus, and request them to take appropriate steps to prevent potential onward spread.
- 20.3 Maintaining customer records
 - 20.3.1 In order to support Test and Protect sports facility operators are required to collect the name, contact number, date of visit, time of arrival, and where possible the departure time of all those attending facilities or activities. Where attending as a small household group, the contact details for one member – a 'lead member' – will be sufficient.

- 20.3.2 It is important that sport facility operators and customers cooperate, as it will be crucial to national efforts to suppress the virus.
- 20.3.3 Sports facility operators will store information for 21 days and share it with public health officers when requested.
- 20.3.4 A leaflet providing information on the Test and Protect service from NHS Scotland is also available here: [Test and Protect](#).
- 20.3.5 The Scottish Government have launched the [Protect Scotland App](#) to reduce the spread of coronavirus and avoid further lockdowns.

21. Health, Safety & Hygiene

- 21.1 Face coverings
 - 21.1.1 Participants and visitors to indoor sports facilities should wear face coverings before and after activity or when in non-playing areas of the facility (e.g. reception, locker rooms and storage areas).
 - 21.1.2 Face coverings do not need to be worn when undertaking physical activity, exercise or showering/changing.
 - 21.1.3 Face coverings do not need to be worn in a sports facility hospitality environment i.e. café, restaurant or bar.
- 21.2 If you are not wearing face coverings and need to sneeze or cough, do so into a tissue or upper sleeve. Dispose of your tissue into an appropriate bin supplied at the venue or place in a plastic bag and take home. Wash your hands afterwards for 20 seconds.
- 21.3 Avoid touching your face and ensure to clean your hands with at least 60% alcohol gel when you finish participating.

22. Physical distancing and participation numbers

- 22.1 Children aged 11 years and younger are not required to physically distance at any time, as set out in Scottish Government guidance.
- 22.2 For those 12 years of age and over taking part in sport or leisure activity, normal Scottish Government physical distancing and household number guidelines should be followed.
- 22.3 Normal physical distancing and household number guidelines will however be applicable before and after the sporting activity or when taking breaks.
- 22.4 Coaches, officials, parents and guardians should continue to observe physical distancing when involved in children's activity as a coach, official or spectator. Please refer to specific club or facility guidelines.

- 22.5 Where access through an indoor space is provided it should be for one person at a time, ideally with a one-way system in operation. Participants should ensure not to make contact with hard surfaces such as door handles and move through the area without stopping or congregating at any time.
- 22.6 Further information on physical distancing guidance is available at [Staying Safe and Protecting Others](#) .

23. Spectators

- 23.1 No spectating should take place other than where a parent/guardian is supervising a child or vulnerable adult. In all cases physical distancing should always be followed.

24. Competitions

- 24.1 Local competitions or events can now take place if all the guidelines outlined in this document are adhered to.

25. Equipment & Facilities

- 25.1 Where possible take your own equipment with you.
- 25.2 Only take the minimum amount of equipment that you need to participate.
- 25.3 Clean and wipe down your equipment, including water bottles before and after use.
- 25.4 Bring a full water bottle, and do not share food or drink with others.
- 25.5 Ensure you take all personal belongings and equipment with you at the end of the session and do not leave or store anything at the venue/facility.
- 25.6 Players do not need to use their own marked shuttle. However, if you choose to use shared shuttles then extra care must be taken to ensure you do not touch your face during play. You should also use hand gel to sanitize your hands regularly during play. If coaching groups, one tube of shuttles per group should be used and there should be no sharing of shuttles between groups.

26. WHAT THIS MEANS FOR BADMINTON

- 26.1 With the announcement on 10 September 2020 of the progression through Phase 3 of the Scottish Governments route map, it now means that indoor Badminton can be played from 31 August 2020.
- 26.2 This will depend on facility operators opening venues and programming activities. There will still be restrictions in place around access and numbers in

the sports hall at any one time, and these will vary between venues. Therefore, it would be beneficial to contact your local venue to ascertain what their plans are for opening and any restrictions that will be in place.

- 26.3 We have worked in conjunction with **sportscotland** and other NGBs to produce templates and further guidance, all of which can be found on the **sportscotland** web site <https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/>
- 26.4 Badminton has been classed as a non-contact sport.
- 26.5 No restrictions on play for children 11 years and under. For those 12 years and over, play is restricted to singles only due to the 2m physical distancing restrictions remaining in place. The indicative date for this to change is 5 October 2020 following the next First Minister's announcement where these restrictions could be lifted, and normal play could resume.
- 26.6 People who are symptomatic should self-isolate for 10 days and household members for 14 days as per NHS guidance. No one who is self-isolating should attend an outdoor sports facility/activity.
- 26.7 The route map for returning to sport is fluid and could change at short notice. Plus, the phases will not be linear and changes in advice and the lifting of restrictions could also change at short notice or further restrictions put in place should the need arise. The guidance below is a basic outline of a Return to Badminton as it exists at this time. You can keep up to date on the latest return to sport guidance on the [sportscotland COVID-19 page](#).
- 26.8 Additionally, localised lock downs may also occur and therefore clubs and participants should keep close attention to local authority and Badminton Scotland guidance.

27. Information for Clubs, Coaches & Participants

- 27.1 Clubs should appoint a Covid Officer who will oversee all aspects of the return to play and to ensure that participants, coaches and volunteers are aware of, and adhere to, any restrictions that remain in place. A Role descriptor is available, <https://sportscotland.org.uk/media/5950/sportscotland-covid-officer.pdf> and there is a certificated e-learning module for COVID officers available [COVID-19 officer e-learning](#). Also, a Risk Assessment template is available: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/getting-coaches-ready-for-sport/>.

This has examples of areas to consider. However, your venue operator will have completed a Risk Assessment which will also need to be considered.

- 27.2 For all sessions, you must implement a pre-booking system which will enable you to keep attendance records for a minimum of 21 days. You must be able to record who has played in each group within your session and collect all

information that may be required by Test and Protect. More information on this can be found on the Scottish Government web site:

<http://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-protect-coronavirus-service/>

- 27.3 If delivering back to back sessions, end the first session early and start the next session late to reduce the risk and provide safe change overs of players. A 15-minute changeover should be sufficient to ensure that no groups congregate at the entrance/exit. If you run back to back sessions, no players from the first session can attend the second session.
- 27.4 The session can be made up of both coached and non-coached groups.
- 27.5 Both singles and doubles play can now take place for those 11 years and under. For over 12s it will be singles play only due to the 2m physical distancing restrictions.
- 27.7 Whether playing singles or doubles, activity is restricted to groups of a maximum of six people per court. You can have more than one group of six in a hall, providing you are able to maintain social distancing within the space available. A group could, for example, be housed on one court and its surrounding run-off area with other groups on other courts. Players can rotate within the group, but physical distancing must be maintained. You cannot move groups within a session. Maximum numbers in any hall/venue will be determined by the facility operator but should be no more than 30.
- 27.8 Venue specific restrictions may be in place. You should make yourself and all participants aware of these and the Club Covid Officer will be responsible for ensuring these are adhered to.
- 27.9 Other than where players are from the same household or extended household, follow Scottish Government advice, and:
- Stay at least two metres away from other players (including during play) as far as possible, when taking breaks and before and after play.
 - Do not make physical contact with other players.
 - Avoid chasing the shuttle down towards another court, stay within your own court as far as practical.
- 27.10 Where a participant with a disability requires functional support to enable their participation in Badminton, this can be provided without maintaining physical distancing. This support can be provided by a coach or other individual. In such circumstance the Coach & Covid Officer should consider appropriate mitigating actions as part of the risk assessment. For instance, providing appropriate PPE, limiting the number of participants an individual provides functional support to, limiting the duration spent in close proximity, or a combination of actions.

- 27.11 Until all restrictions have been lifted it is imperative that all players use their own equipment and do not share rackets, drinking bottles or any other equipment that is used.
- 27.12 From **31 August 2020** indoor training and local competitions for children up to 11 years old can take place with no restrictions.
- 27.13 Indoor training and local competitions for those 12 years and over can take place from **31 August 2020** where physical distancing can be maintained and would be singles play only. The indicative date for this to change is **5 October 2020** when restrictions could be lifted meaning that doubles play can commence for 12 years and over groups. This will be dependent on the First Ministers announcement on 1 October 2020.
- 27.14 **Indoor coaching** can also take place from 31 August 2020, subject to the above conditions and dates.
- 27.15 Sessions can be formed by multiple groups each using their own court, with a maximum of 6 players per court. If a coach is present, they are to be counted as part of the group.
- 27.16 Physical distancing restrictions should be maintained before and after the activity and face masks should be worn on entering and exiting the venue.
- 27.17 Coaches and other adults supporting any activity should attempt to maintain physical distancing where possible. We would also recommend that all participants use hand gel before, after and regularly during the activity.
- 27.18 All players, coaches, volunteers should thoroughly wash their hands prior to leaving their home and once again when they arrive home.
- 27.19 For the purposes of this guidance 'organised sporting or leisure activity' refers to activities which are undertaken in a structured and managed way following specific rules and guidance of Badminton Scotland, local authorities or businesses who in turn have fully applied related Scottish Government and **sportscotland** guidance. All organised activity should be overseen by a Covid Officer with documented risk assessments undertaken and mitigating actions put in place to ensure the health, safety and welfare of participants, coaches and officials.
- 27.20 The announcement surrounding the indoor household numbers has changed. This details that only 2 households and up to 6 people can meet indoors. This does not apply to organised badminton club activity. Therefore, club sessions can still take place subject to all the other restrictions and following Badminton Scotland guidance.

- 27.21 If not part of club activity and bookings taken for casual play at a venue, then play is restricted by the 2 household and 6 people restrictions. This means that a group of 3 people from different households cannot use a pay and play facility when arriving at a venue.

28. Outdoor Badminton

- 28.1 There are limited changes to the outdoor activity and all forms of Badminton can be played. Groups playing are limited to a **maximum of 30 people**. Badminton Scotland has developed guidance and information on how Outdoor Badminton can be played, available here link:

<https://www.badmintonscotland.org.uk/outdoor-badminton/>

- 28.2 This resource pack provides information on games and activities, as well as courts sizes and ways to mark out the court. The use of the new AirShuttles will be ideal for this activity and are available from Badminton Scotland.

Key Questions & Answers

Q. **What can I do to play badminton just now?**

- A. You can play badminton outdoors with coached groups of up to 30 participants, if it is casual play normal household restrictions apply, 5 households of up to 15 people. The new Air Shuttles and portable court would be ideal for use in these outdoor situations.

However, from **31 August 2020 indoor venues** will start to open and access to courts will be at the venue operator's discretion. It would be beneficial to contact your local venue to ascertain their plans for opening, any restrictions that will be in place and if there are any specifics that they will be expecting clubs to have in place. If it is out with organised sporting activity then normal indoor household restrictions apply, 2 households of up to 6 people.

Q. **Can I coach players in a park?**

- A. You can now see others from a different household in an open public space. Further information around coaching can be found at: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/getting-your-coaches-ready-for-sport/>. Maximum numbers in any one group is 30.

Q. **Can I share equipment?**

- A. There should be no sharing of equipment. Players do not need to use their own marked shuttle. However, if you choose to use shared shuttles then extra care must be taken to ensure you do not touch your face during play. You should also use hand gel to sanitize your hands regularly during play. Plus, you should clean your hands before play and immediately after finishing. If coaching groups, one tube of shuttles

per group should be used and there should be no sharing of shuttles between groups.

Individuals should follow all guidance on hygiene, for example by using antibacterial spray and washing hands thoroughly/use hand gel before and after use and ensure they clean and wipe down equipment, including rackets and water bottles before and after use.

Q. When will indoor badminton return?

A. Indoor badminton has returned from 31 August 2020. This will be at the discretion of the facility operator and some may have a phased approach to reopening all facilities.

Q. What guidance will you be issuing about restarting play?

A. The badminton community is starting to think about restarting play. In consultation with the Scottish Government and **sportscotland**, we are drafting guidance that will be published once any changes to the restrictions is known. This guidance will align with Scottish Government guidelines and our ambition to get badminton back on court as soon and as safely as possible.

Q. Why are England playing doubles and Scotland aren't?

A. England and Scotland have different guidance. England are operating under "2 meters where possible" physical distancing, whereas the Scottish Government is still operating under strict 2-metre physical distancing. This means that only singles between different households is possible, or doubles between the same extended household. Children 11years and under can play any format.

Q. When will the competition calendar commence?

A. There is no proposed date at present for competition to resume and we continue to follow Scottish Government advice. However, local competitions can commence from 31 August 2020 but must follow the guidance outline in this document.

Q. When will further guidance on the return to play be shared?

A. The next update from the First Minister will be on 1 October 2020. Any changes to the restrictions will be included in the Guidance and published on the Badminton Scotland web site.

Q. Will my usual venue be open for Badminton from 31 August?

A. It would be beneficial to contact your local venue to ascertain their plans as not all venues will open immediately and there will be a phased approach from Local Authorities and Leisure Trusts.

Q. When will the Coach Education Course Programme commence?

A. All coach education courses are suspended at this time. We will continue to review the situation and will advise members of any changes. Courses will be programmed when venues start to re-open and physical distancing restrictions are lifted or mitigating factors can be implemented.

Q. Why does my club need a Covid Officer?

A. This is to ensure that the club is aware of the up to date information and restrictions in place. It will also help to keep maintain physical distancing and ensure that all remain safe during the session.

Q. Is there a Badminton specific return to play Risk Assessment that I could use.

A. Yes, one is available to download from the Badminton Scotland web site.

<https://www.badmintonscotland.org.uk/covid-19-guidance/>

Q. What do Clubs have to do to limit the risk of Covid 19

A. A Risk Assessment (above) should be undertaken with mitigating actions put in place to reduce risks. Hand gel stations should be in the venues and players should be advised to use hand gel throughout the session.

Q. Can I book and play casual sessions within my local sports centre.

A. This is possible and subject to sport centres opening and local restrictions that may be in place. Casual bookings are also restricted by the household numbers, 2 households of up to 6 people.