Badminton FAQs and T&C’s

**Q1: What will my venue be providing to ensure it is safe to play?**

A1: Our indoor venue is operating to strict Government and Badminton England guidelines to ensure it is safe to play. Please take time to familiarise yourself with the way our venue is operating. You should check what happens when you arrive at the venue and the arrangements for meeting others to play within your group before your session is due to start. There may also be changes to session length and changeover times along with breaks between sessions to allow cleaning to take place.

**Q2: Do I need to book in advance to play?**

A2: Yes, you must book in advance. You should check our venue’s arrangements via the [website](https://www.activenewham.org.uk/) and our [activeNewham App](https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/activenewham/id858470905). Only Casual bookings will be available to begin with.

**Q3: Do I need to record all player details, that are involved in my booking?**

A3: Yes: as part of the track and trace requirements every player will need to log into the booking prior to the booking commencing and enter in their contact details. This can’t be completed once the booking period has started. Failure to complete will result in refusal in admission.

**Q4: Can I book more than one badminton session back to back?**

A4: Yes, but please note that due to sessions only being available on a casual basis, each session will need to be paid for. You must also leave courts between sessions for cleaning to take place.

**Q5. What happens if I had a Block Booking before the Centre closed?**

A5. Block Booking arrangements will not be part of this first phase of re-opening. Those that held Block Bookings will be contacted in due course to establish your on-going requirement.

**Q6: Will all services and all areas of the building be open when my local facility reopens?**

A6: Our advice is that players should arrive and leave in their kit as changing and shower facilities will be out of use. Only toilet facilities will remain open. Please note the Sports Hall will also be holding Group Exercise Classes, so expect background music at certain times of the day. A full programme of Exercise Classes can be obtained from the Leisure Centre.

**Q7: Can I turn up on my own at the centre?**

A7: Players must arrive and meet outside the centre and check-in together reception. You will not be able to enter the centre without the lead booker for your courts.

**Q8**: **What if I am late for my booking at the centre?**

A8: If you or anyone in your group are more than 10 minutes late you will be refused entry for your session.

**Q9: What happens if a player is not following the guidelines?**

A9: You should ensure players understand the guidelines before playing and reinforce this at the start of the session. If someone is not following them, you should remind them; if they continue to ignore the guidelines you should treat them in the same way as you would anyone not following the instructions for your session.

**Q10: Why are spectators not allowed for adult badminton?**

A10: This is to help ensure social distancing can be maintained and to maximise the number of people playing.

**Q11: Can I play doubles?**

A11: Yes, you can now play doubles with members of other households providing you are not in an area with local restrictions. You must, however, remain in groups of 4. These groups should not change throughout the session, but you can play with different players within your group.

**Q12: Can we use the forecourt?**

A12: Yes, you can use the full court area.

**Q13: Are the doubles tramlines in play?**

A13: You can play singles and doubles using all areas of the court, within the respective court markings – if social distancing between adjacent courts cannot be maintained, you should only use the singles court markings

**Q14: Should we only use alternate courts?**

A14: There is no need to leave a gap between courts in use, and all courts can always be used subject to social distancing being maintained. However, you should take a safety-first approach, and make an assessment based on your own club environment. With the 2-metre social distancing regulation if this cannot be maintained using consecutive courts then alternative courts should be used.

**Q15: How long does a group last for (i.e. can a player play in one group on Monday and then a different group on a Tuesday) – important for clubs with multiple teams in a league (e.g. Men’s and Mixed).**

A15: A player group is one day only; you could therefore play in different groups on other days.

**Q16: After I have finished a game, can I/we play someone on another court?**

A16: No. Each group is allocated a court to play on, and groups must not change throughout the session.

**Q17: What do I do whilst off court?**

A18: You need to ensure that you remain 2 metres from everyone playing and everyone else in the hall and stay in the boxes provided for you.

**Q17: Can I share equipment?**

A19: No. You must not share equipment such as rackets, nets, or posts. If you do touch shared equipment, e.g., you must put up or take down nets, you should wash your hands immediately.

**Q18: Should I wear PPE?**

A18: It is not a requirement that you wear equipment such as masks while playing Badminton. However, facilities may require you to wear a mask within certain areas of the building. You should check with venue regarding the wearing of masks before visiting. It is important to remember that the most effective way of reducing risk is to wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your face. You may choose to wear sweat/wrist bands to help with this.

**Q19: What if I leave an item of clothing or equipment in the sports hall after use?**

A19: The Centre is required to dispose of the item following COVID-19 guidelines and legal requirements.

**Q20: Will the changing rooms be open for use?**

A20: No. The use of changing rooms is not allowed; only toilets will be open for use.

**Q21: What should I do if someone displays symptoms of COVID-19?**

A21: If you are symptomatic or living in a household with someone else who has a possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection you should remain at home.

**Q22: What should I do if I am shielding?**

A22: From 1 August 2020, people in England who are at high risk from coronavirus will no longer be advised to shield. If you are classified as extremely vulnerable on health grounds, you are advised to rigidly follow government guidelines to protect yourself.

**Q23: What should I do if I have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace?**

A23: If you have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace because you are a contact of a known COVID-19 case, do not exercise outside your own home or garden and do not exercise with others; you can spread the virus to others even if you never get symptoms.

# Playing badminton

* Both singles play, and doubles play can take place in groups of people from different households, if you remain 2 metres apart as far as possible.
* You can play singles and doubles using all areas of the court, within the respective court markings – if social distancing between adjacent courts cannot be maintained, you should only use the singles court markings.
* We recommend that you do not change ends. If you adopt the club match play option 2 for your club sessions or are playing league matches, you must not change ends.
* A maximum of four players can be grouped together; depending on the total space available ensuring that social distancing is maintained. Two-metre boxes have been marked out at the entrance to the Hall: players not in play must wait in these boxes. These designated court boxes should also be used for the storage of any equipment that is not in use.
* Players must stay within their allocated group during a session, but they can rotate within the group providing social distancing is maintained within the group.
* Players are advised to limit their interactions with anyone outside of the group they are playing in (e.g. players in another group).
* Other than where players are from the same household or part of a support bubble, follow Government advice on staying alert and safe.
* Stay at least two metres away from other players (including during play) as much as possible, when taking breaks and before and after play.
* Do not make physical contact with other players (such as shaking hands or high fiving).
* Avoid chasing the shuttle down towards another court if other players are using it.
* For doubles, consider agreeing in advance which player will take the shot if a shuttle travels to the centre of the court.

# Managing Shuttles and Equipment

* Players must take all their own equipment they need for the session keeping to essential items. You should only use your own racket.
* You should not share equipment and should clean and wipe down your equipment before and after use.
* Shuttles should be allocated to a group of players in line with how you are organising the session in the hall. Players within that group can share shuttles but should adhere to strict hygiene rules and should not handle any shuttles allocated to other groups.
* Players should avoid using their hands to pick up shuttles from other courts; where possible – use your own racket to return them.
* Bring your own full water bottle, clearly marked. Food is NOT permitted in the hall.
* Equipment bags should be stored in the boxes clearly marked in the sports hall
* Ensure you take all your belongings with you at the end of the session and do not leave anything on court.
* Avoid using/touching other equipment such as nets, posts, court mops where possible. If you must set up or take down nets, for example, ensure you wash your hands immediately afterwards in line with Government guidance.