



**COVID-19 Protocols for Badminton Ontario
Sanctioned Events in the
2021-22 Competition Season**

Final Version – September 2021

COVID-19 Protocols for Badminton Ontario Sanctioned Events in the 2021-22 Competition Season

Preamble

There is heightened risk of transmission of COVID-19 associated with the game of badminton due to the fact that it is played indoors with players frequently coming within a two-meter distance of one another. Tournaments present an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission for reasons such as travel, dining in public, and exposure to different players on court. In view of the high vaccination rate in Ontario, it is possible to implement protocols that will provide a sufficiently safe environment to run tournaments.

Badminton Ontario is committed to providing and maintaining a safe competitive environment for all. This document along with the BON Return to Play COVID-19 Guidelines for Hosting Provincial Events sets out the safety protocol related to COVID-19 to be followed for the safe delivery of Badminton Ontario sanctioned events.

Additionally, in order to ensure that our players, coaches, volunteers, technical officials, spectators and staff are not exposed to undue risk due to COVID-19, Badminton Ontario will be mandating that all participants must be fully vaccinated prior to participating in Badminton Ontario sanctioned programming and events.

This protocol complies with general measures and recommendations for prevention of the spread of COVID-19 and cleaning of facilities as established by Public Health Canada and by the Badminton World Federation (the "BWF"). However additional safety protocols may be applied based on local or provincial requirements.

These protocols are mandatory for all participants, which includes Players, Coaches, Technical Officials, Staff, volunteers and spectators who are involved in Badminton Ontario tournaments. These protocols must be followed even if a participant has been fully or partially vaccinated.

Failure to comply with these protocols could lead to a sanction on the athlete/participant.

General Comments

- a. All Players, Coaches, Team Managers, Technical Officials, and Tournament Staff and any other individuals who are taking part in the Provincially Sanctioned Events must follow all guidelines indicated in this document. Failure to comply will lead to a sanction or removal from the tournament. Badminton Ontario reserves the right to pursue additional sanctions if appropriate in the circumstances.
- b. Local, Provincial, and National governmental COVID-19 health and safety protocols as well as venue operator health and safety protocols must be followed at all Badminton Ontario events. This includes, but is not limited to, proof of vaccination, required COVID-19 testing,

limitation in the number of participants in the venue, daily health attestations, mask mandates, social distancing mandates, and other such measures required by provincial health authorities.

- c. Badminton Ontario reserves the rights to apply stricter health and safety protocols than those applied by government and/or the sport venue at its sole discretion.

Protocols for Participants

- a. All participants wishing to enter the sport venue must provide proof of full vaccination. This includes players, coaches, support team, technical officials, staff / volunteers, and parents / spectators. Participants under the age of twelve do not have to provide proof of full vaccination.
- b. Those who cannot provide proof of vaccination will not be permitted into the venue under any circumstances unless they have received written approval from Badminton Ontario through the below process:
 - i. If a participant is unable to receive a vaccination due to a medical condition or other grounds protected by applicable provincial human rights legislation, the participant may seek approval from Badminton Ontario to attend without proof of vaccination.
 - ii. Requests must be submitted in writing to the Technical Director of Badminton Ontario (at jean.wong@badmintonontario.ca) as least two weeks before the start of the event. This request must include documentation supporting the participant's position that they are exempted from receiving a COVID vaccination.
 - iii. This process is a shared responsibility. All parties should co-operatively engage in the process, share information, including answering reasonable questions or provide information about relevant restrictions or limitations, and consider potential solutions.
 - iv. The Technical Director may grant or refuse the request to attend an event without proof of vaccination. The Technical Director may also grant the request with conditions, such as masking and social distancing.
 - v. The decision of the Technical Director is final and not appealable.
- c. Acceptable vaccines are only those approved by Health Canada.
- d. Full vaccination of a participants must be completed in the timelines below in order to be eligible to participate at the event:
 - i. Pfizer – second dose must be administered no later than two weeks prior to the first day of competition
 - ii. Moderna – second dose must be administered no later than two weeks prior to the first day of
 - iii. Astra Zeneca – second dose must be administered no later than two weeks prior to the first day of competition
 - iv. Johnson and Johnson – initial / single dose must be administered no later than four weeks prior to the first day of competition
- e. Proof of vaccination **MUST** be submitted to info@badmintonontario.ca no later than 12:00 Eastern two weeks prior to the start of the tournament unless a participant has submitted a request under section 2(b).
 - i. Proof can be in the form of vaccination passport, a copy of the proof of vaccination given

- at the time of receiving vaccination, or a letter from a medical practitioner, confirming that the participant has been vaccinated.
- ii. Badminton Ontario will only collect, use, and disclose information regarding a participant's vaccination status in accordance with its Privacy Policy and all applicable privacy laws. Proof of vaccination will be kept in a confidential file, stored in a secure location.
 - iii. Failure to submit proof of vaccination by the above mentioned deadline will result in the immediate withdrawal from the event. Doubles partners will NOT be reassigned new partners.
 - iv. No refund will be provided.
- f. It is highly desirable that all out of town participants stay only in the official hotel designated by Badminton Ontario or the event organizing committee.
 - g. The official hotel will be shared with other guests who are not related to the Provincially Sanctioned event. Therefore, it is important for participants to follow the COVID-19 measures consistent with general public health guidance and infection prevention and control measure, such as avoiding closed meetings, maintaining safe distances, using face masks, using hand sanitizer when taking elevators, and observing the elevators recommended capacity.

Travel Safety Measures

- a. Participants who are travelling by air must comply with all applicable airline health and safety regulations.
- b. For participants who are travelling by car, Badminton Ontario urges you to travel to the event with only members of your household. Should a participant need to travel with members outside of their immediate household, please wear a mask and follow the COVID-19 measures consistent with general public health guidance, infection prevention and control measures.

General Measures at Competition Venues

- a. **The use of a face mask will be mandatory at all times, except for PLAYERS when competing in their matches.**
- b. The use of hand sanitizer will be mandatory in the entrances and exits of the courts, seating area, and changing rooms.
- c. Each day all participants must complete a daily health attestation.
- d. Players should arrive at the venue no more than one hour prior to their first match.
- e. Players must leave the venue within 30 minutes of the completion of their last match of the day.
- f. To access the competition facilities, participants must manage their personal space or belongings.
- g. Access to the competition venue for Badminton Ontario sanctioned events will be limited to:
 - a. Players;
 - b. Coaches;
 - c. Technical Officials;

- d. Staff,
- e. Event Volunteers; and,
- f. One Parent/Guardian of Junior players in the U15 and U17 age group competitions can enter the competition venue if:
 - i. they meet and follow all requirements of this protocol;
 - ii. they meet the applicable provincial vaccination requirements;
 - iii. there is sufficient capacity in the venue.

Practice / Warm-up

- a. To ensure physical distancing, a maximum of four players are allowed to practice on each warm-up court.
- b. Warm-up courts are strictly limited to those players with upcoming matches within the next hour.
- c. Players must provide their own shuttlecocks for practice/warmups. All Shuttlecocks must be picked up at the end of the warmup.

Pre-Match Activities

- a. Players must wear a face mask during all Pre-Match activities – walk in, coin toss, etc. Masks can only be removed at the start of the match warm-up.
- b. Players must carry with them everything they need for the match, including a dry towel for drying sweat.
- c. Line judges will NOT wipe up sweat/moisture from the courts.
- d. Players will access the court only when explicitly called by the Draw Desk Match Controller or Tournament Referee. Players must respect the access path marked by the local organizer for each of the courts.
- e. The first Player called to the match will be placed on the side of the court furthest to the path.
- f. Players must place their racket bags a minimum of 2 meters away from the Umpire/Service Judge.
- g. In the case of Doubles, Players will place their racket bags 2 meters away from the partner and the Umpire/Service Judge.
- h. There will be no physical contact between the Umpire, players (including pairs partners), or opponents(s) at any time.

During a Match

- a. Use your own water bottle, towel, rackets, and clothing.
- b. Maintain 2 meters distance on court when possible.
- c. Maintain 2 meters distance when speaking with Technical Officials and Coaches.
- d. Avoid handling the shuttlecock as much as possible with hands, except during the service.

- e. Avoid contact with the net as much as possible.
- f. Dry sweat/moisture off the playing court with the use of a personal towel.
- g. The court change will be made crossing below the net, in the center of the court. First, the Player/pair who has won or wins the set will cross. The other Player/pair will wait with their racket bag(s) to make the change.
- h. For change of shuttlecock, once indicated by the Umpire the Player will deposit the shuttlecock in a container on the side of the Umpire (or Service Judge) and take the replacement shuttlecock located in a specific place.

After a Match

- a. Dry your sweat and put all the personal items inside the racket bag.
- b. Put your mask back on.
- c. First to leave will be the Player/pair closest to the starting point marked by the host. Then the other Player/pair will do so, passing under the net.
- d. Keep the physical distance at all times.

Coaching

- a. Only one Coach is allowed on court.
- b. Only one Coach chair is allowed.
- c. Should the Coach need to move to another court in the middle of a match, they must:
 - i. wait until the shuttle is not in play to enter / exit the Field of Play
 - ii. Follow the access path marked by the local organizer for each court.

Award Ceremonies

- a. Badminton Ontario reserves the right not to hold award ceremonies at any of the Provincially Sanctioned events. This decision will be at the sole and absolute discretion of Badminton Ontario.
- b. Should an award ceremony be held the following protocols will apply:
 - i. Everyone involved in the award ceremonies must wear a mask and disinfect their hands.
 - ii. Only Players and those involved in the presentation are allowed in the medal presentation area. The exception to this is:
 - 1. Event photographer
 - 2. One parent of U17 or U15 age group players.
 - iii. Physical distancing will be followed during presentations.
 - iv. Physical contact between Players is not allowed during presentations.