

SCC Eligibility Criteria (2022-23)

Appendix A - Badminton England County Competition Eligibility:

The following regulations apply to all Badminton England County Championship and Challenge competitions. All players must be in good standing with Badminton England and be either; a playing member of Badminton England or registered with Badminton England if they are member another national association affiliated to the Badminton World Federation.

A player shall be eligible to represent a County if they:

- a) Were born in that county
- b) Currently reside in that county
- c) Currently in full time education in that county
- d) Last represented county
- e) Previously represented county
- f) Player has previously resided in county for at least 3 consecutive years

A player may not represent more than one county during the same season without special dispensation.

If a county proposes to use a player who has played for another county in the preceding season that county must notify the match secretary of the previous county, and Badminton England Competitions Team, of the change as soon as it is known and before the player plays for the new county for the first time.

Junior County; players must be below the qualifying age as per BE age groups.

Masters County; players must fall within the qualifying age groups at the start of the tie. Masters participating in the Masters' County Championships and Masters County Challenge must represent the same county in both competitions if there is a team entered in the appropriate age group, however if such a team is not entered the player may represent another county provided they are otherwise eligible.

All resident and England born players shall be granted the right to represent a county should the eligibility criteria not otherwise provide an active county team suitable for that player. **Requests shall be carried out as per a Special Dispensation Request, following the process laid out.**

Should a county be in any doubt regards a player's eligibility then these should be made in writing to Badminton England Competitions Team by following the **Eligibility Appeals process laid out.**

Badminton England reserves the right to grant special dispensations. Requests can be made by following the [Special Dispensation Request process laid out](#).

Transferring County

If a county proposes to use a player who has played for another county in the preceding season(s) that county must notify the match secretary of the previous county and Badminton England Competition & Events Team of the change as soon as it is known and before the player plays for the new county for the first time. It is the responsibility of the new County to ensure that all players meet the qualification criteria and may be required to provide evidence to such effect.

Definitions

a) Were born in that county

A player will be required to supply a copy of their birth certificate. County of birth will be determined using the County Boundaries.

b) Currently reside in that county

A player is considered to be resident in a county where, for the time being, it is usual for them to live and forms part of their regular and habitual mode of life for more than 183 days and nights of the year (1st August to 31st July). If residence is less than 183 days of the year then special dispensation is required.

In considering whether a person is resident, all the circumstances of the particular case will need to be considered and evidence to support the case by providing:

i) Two pieces of documentation from the list below. Players may provide evidence in their parents or legal guardians' name.

ii) Can demonstrate that they will be at this address for 183 days of the year as part of their regular life (eg. reason for change, personal circumstance, work, school, family, property, social

ties). Where the player is over 18 and has not provided two pieces of documentation in their own name then further evidence may be requested.

Documentation for proof of address:

- Current lease/tenancy agreement showing name and address.
- A mortgage statement from a recognised Lender (issued within the last 12 months).
- Residence you are named on the Land registry (eg. solicitor's letter confirming recent house purchase or land registry confirmation).

- Household bill eg. council tax, utility bill, current television license, fixed line telephone (not mobile phone, satellite/cable TV or internet printed bills). (Issued within the last 6 months).
- Current full UK photo-card driving license or paper driving license, showing name and address. A provisional licence is only acceptable for individuals aged under 18.
- HM Revenue & Customs (Inland Revenue) tax document eg tax assessment, statement of account, PAYE coding notice, tax credits. It must contain your full name and current address (issued within the last 12 months). Please note pay slip, P45s and P60s are NOT acceptable.
- Notification of entitlement from the relevant agency confirming the right to benefits, state pension, educational grant, or other government/local authority grant (issued within the last 12 months).

For valuable documents you may prefer to send us certified copies rather than the original documents.

c) Currently in full time education in that county

The county will be determined for the place of education based on the admissions address. Proof of education may be required, whereby the following will apply:

By law, all children between 5 and 16 must receive full-time education that meets their needs (eg if they have special educational needs). This may be at school or home educated. For players over the age of 16 to count as a full-time student, your course must:

- i) last at least 6 months (where you are required to attend for at least 24 weeks of the year)
- ii) involve at least 12 hours tuition or work experience per week during term time

As a guide this includes full-time college or university students, postgraduates, student nurses, apprentice schemes.

Documentation for proof of education:

- Letter of admission from the School, or letter from the school that demonstrates you are at that school.
- UCAS letter or student loan agreement from a Local Education Authority
(issued within the last 6 months).
- Certificate of student status provided by your university or college (it is a requirement of the law for them to provide you a certificate if requested for up to a year after you complete your course).

- Council Tax Exemption Certificate that shows you are recognised as being in full time education.

It might be necessary for a class schedule to be requested, or list of courses you are registered to attend in order to demonstrate at least 12 hours tuition or work experience per week.

d) Last represented that county

Badminton England records of recognised County Tournaments will be used. The regulation understands that a player may have taken a break from competing, and therefore is returning to the game after a leave of absence. This regulation allows for the player to represent the county they previously qualified for, before the leave, even if circumstances have changed according to criteria b and c.

e) Previously represented county

Badminton England records of recognised County Tournaments will be used.

At some point in the players past, they will have represented the county under the regulation eligibility criteria, either at Junior or Senior levels, even if represented other county(s) since.

f) Previously resided in county

As with criteria b, a player must be able to provide evidence that it was usual for them to live and formed part of their regular and habitual mode of life for more than 183 days and nights of the year (1st August to 31st July). If residence is less than 183 days of the year then special dispensation is required.

Eligibility Appeals

Should a county be in doubt regards a player's eligibility and can provide good reason or evidence to suggest that they may not be eligible then the following process shall be followed.

[For the avoidance of doubt, any play from the voided 2019/2020 season cannot be used as proof as having previously played for a county.]

- i) The county in doubt must raise its concerns with Badminton England, setting out clearly the basis for them. These should be addressed to the Head of Competition via competition@badmintonengland.co.uk and copied to the county(ies) whose nomination(s) have raised concern(s).
- ii) Badminton England shall respond within seven days to acknowledge receipt.
- iii) Badminton England will contact the relevant county whose responsibility it will be to provide evidence on behalf of the player within 28 days of notice. During this period the player may continue to play; however, this is at the risk that results may be discounted at a later point if found ineligible.

- iv) Where appropriate evidence has been supplied then Badminton England will confirm the player's eligibility to both counties involved.
- v) If the appropriate evidence cannot be provided by the County within 28 days, then the player will be deemed ineligible until appropriate evidence can be supplied and will no longer be permitted to play. The County may submit a Special Dispensation Request for that player following the process laid out.
- vi) If the county in doubt is still not satisfied, it may, within seven days, appeal in writing, with reasons, to the Badminton England Disciplinary Officer via disciplinary@badmintonengland.co.uk (again copied to the other county).
- vii) The Badminton England Disciplinary Officer will determine how best to handle any such appeals. The decision of the Disciplinary Officer is final and cannot be appealed further.

Special Dispensation Request

- viii) A County may submit a request for special dispensation for a player. The request **must be submitted to the Head of Competition** via the appropriate form on the Badminton England website (or from Head of Competition).
- ix) **Badminton England will acknowledge receipt of the request within seven days. Badminton England may contact other counties/persons with details of the appeal and for more information in relation to the special dispensation request.**
- x) Badminton England will advise the requesting county about the outcome of the request. There is no fixed time for the outcome to be notified.
- xi) **Special dispensation request outcome:**
 - a. **If a special dispensation request is rejected the county may, within seven days of being notified of the outcome, appeal in writing, with reasons, to the Badminton England Disciplinary Officer via disciplinary@badmintonengland.co.uk (copied to the Head of Competition via competition@badmintonengland.co.uk).**
 - b. **If a special dispensation request is approved, Badminton England will advise all counties. Any county in doubt about an approved special dispensation may, within seven days of being notified of the request, raise its concerns with Badminton England, setting out clearly the basis for them to the Badminton England Disciplinary Officer via disciplinary@badmintonengland.co.uk (copied to the Head of Competition via competition@badmintonengland.co.uk).**
- xii) **The Badminton England Disciplinary Officer will determine how best to handle any such appeals. The decision of the Disciplinary Officer is final and cannot be appealed further.**
- xiii) Where Special Dispensation is approved, the player will be allowed to compete during the seven days appeal window and/or under appeal investigation until a final decision is received. However, this is done at the risk of the special dispensation being revoked through the appeals process, and as a result the normal penalties apply to points deduction and fines.

Note – In steps i to v and viii to xii, Badminton England will utilise the relevant management group to support decision making.