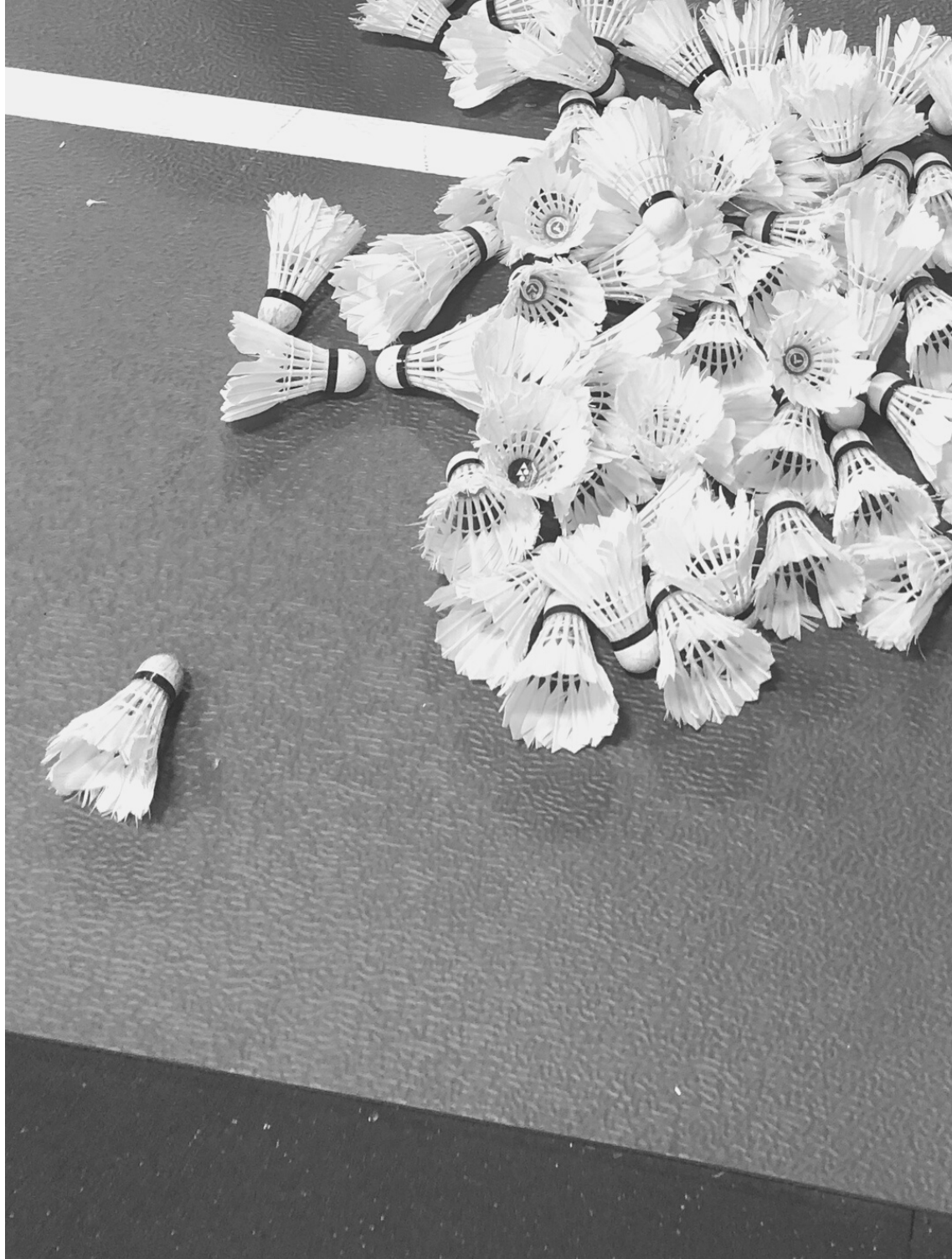


323-145 PACIFIC AVE
WINNIPEG, MB

WEBSITE
WWW.BADMINTON.MB.CA



**MANITOBA
BADMINTON
ASSOCIATION**

RETURN TO PLAY COVID-19 GUIDELINES

FOR A SAFE RETURN TO BADMINTON IN MANITOBA
(UPDATED FEBRUARY 22, 2022)

OVERVIEW

This document was first developed in the spring of 2020 to support badminton clubs and programs in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among athletes, coaches, and spectators. First based on recommendations by Badminton Canada, these guidelines have continued to evolve over time as the pandemic progressed and public-health protocols changed.

We aim to provide science- and data-informed guidance as well as an overall plan for our sport in the province. As such, this document will remain fluid and susceptible to changes and amendments. Readers are reminded that while no version of this document is ever final, its protocols and guidelines do not become null and void the moment Manitoba Public Health protocols are modified.

PREAMBLE

- Badminton does not require direct person-to-person contact and offers many physical and mental health benefits.
- This document outlines ways the sport can return while ensuring a safe environment for all participants. Even as government-mandated restrictions are lifted, precautions must always be taken to reduce risks and protect our members and the public. Vigilance and consideration of the health and safety of others will continue to lead decision-making.
- As the situation in Manitoba evolves and Public Health regulations change, athletes, members, participants, and program leaders are reminded to refer to both this document and the public-health regulations of the day when planning and evaluating their programs. Before play, athletes and facility managers must be aware of and abide by current provincial and regional guidelines and public-health regulations.
- MBA events frequently unite teens, adults, and seniors on the same field of play, rendering our competitions more demographically diverse than most other sports. As such, the MBA's guidelines will at times go beyond the government-mandated protocols of the day, aligning themselves more closely to Badminton Canada's national-tournament policies and protocols.
- Clubs, coaches, members, hosts, and athletes must be in compliance with public-health orders of the day as well as provincial regulations. Clubs and individuals hosting unsanctioned events are encouraged to use our *Return to Play* documents but are not bound by its protocols.
- All facilities (clubs, venues, host locations), organizations, and individuals (coaches, hosts, officials, spectators, and athletes) participating in or hosting MBA-sanctioned events and programming are to adhere not only to provincial-health guidelines, but also to the MBA's *Return to Play* guidelines. Failure to do so could affect a member's standing.

RESOURCES & WORKS CONSULTED

Badminton Canada. *Badminton Facility Planning During the COVID-19 Pandemic*.

Manitoba Badminton Association. *Return to Play Guidelines* (all previous versions)

Manitoba Badminton Association. *Return to Play Guidelines for Schools* (all previous versions)

Manitoba Badminton Association. *Return to Play Guidelines for Tournaments & Programs* (all previous versions)

Government of Manitoba. *COVID-19 Public Health Orders for Indoor Youth Sport: Schools Fact Sheet*

Government of Manitoba COVID-19 Resources. www.gov.mb.ca/covid19

CONTACT US

Manitoba Badminton Association

323-145 Pacific Ave

Winnipeg MB R3B 2Z6

www.badminton.mb.ca

email: info@badminton.mb.ca

GENERAL GUIDELINES

ACTIVITY

- Training permitted, with modifications in place. Singles and doubles sparring are allowed at this stage.
- Tournaments and competition permitted. Please consult our pages 3-4 for more information.
- Group size should conform to current public-health protocols and physical-distancing guidelines. If courts are not regulation-sized or if some courts share lines (in smaller gymnasiums, for example), we recommend measuring the space. Drills should be modified when necessary to enable appropriate physical distancing.
- Only one-on-one (1:1), one-on-two (1:2), and two-on-two (2:2) drills and training should be considered at this stage. This means a maximum of 4 athletes on a court at any given time. Additional athletes (if a drill is rotating athletes on- or off-court, for example) can remain by the court, space permitting.

ATHLETES & MEMBERS

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after play.
- Wear a well-fitting mask (N95s recommended) at all times when not on court. Refer to mask policies on pages 3-4 for more information on requirements.
- If you have symptoms or have reason to believe you have been exposed to COVID, stay home.
- Follow all venue guidelines. Consider arriving no more than 5-10 minutes early to limit time spent in common areas.
- Spectators discouraged, with the exception of parents and/or guardians of junior athletes. Any spectators are to adhere to all public-health guidelines and wear well-fitting masks (N95s recommended) at all times. Any permitted spectators should be a minimum of 6 feet apart at all times. See venue or event guidelines for further information.

COACHES, CLUBS, & PROGRAM LEADERS

- Wear a well-fitting mask (N95s recommended) at all times when not on court. See pages 3-4 for more information.
- Take facility ventilation and airflow into account when planning programs. Furthermore, facilities should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized using appropriate cleaning products. Clean common or high-touch areas on a regular basis.
- Distance between courts must be measured to ensure adequate spacing according to health guidelines.
- Ensure appropriate quantities of sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, masks, and other necessary items are available for use.
- Communicate guidelines, restrictions, and plan to all participants. Enforce proper mask use.
- Stagger on-court sessions and practices to allow athletes time to leave/arrive without close proximity to others.
- Monitor and consider closure of spectator areas.
- When mask use policies are in place (see pages 3-4 for more information), the operator of the facility must ensure that anyone not wearing a mask or not doing so properly is given a reminder to do so as soon as practicable.
- All clubs, facilities, coaches, and event/program leaders must adhere to provincial health regulations. Guidelines outlined in this document should also be taken into consideration, as they outline sport-specific best practices.
 - Anyone hosting, coaching, officiating, or participating in MBA-run programs, camps, training, or MBA-sanctioned competition must adhere to both public-health guidelines and the guidelines outlined in this document. In the case of disconnects between this document and government guidelines, participants are to adhere to the stricter regulations. Failure to do so could affect a member's standing.

UNSANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS, EVENTS & PROGRAMS

PROGRAMMING

- Tournaments and events may operate with caution and must comply with current public-health orders
- Camps and training may continue to take place and must comply with current public-health orders
- Both *singles* and *doubles* events are possible
- If numbers allow, tournament hosts are encouraged to:
 - run events straight through in lieu of hosting Sunday finals.
 - "cohort" age groups at junior events in order to limit interaction between participants. For example: U13/U15 play through, followed by U17/U19.

VACCINATION & ELIGIBILITY POLICY

- As per Public-Health regulations, until at least March 1st, 2022
 - All adult athlete-participants, coaches, spectators, and officials must be vaccinated
 - Verification of vaccine status (scanning of QR code and ID check) is to be done by hosts daily for contact-tracing.
 - ★ Please note that a Manitoba Public-Health exemption exists for staff of facilities.
- Verification of vaccine status (scanning of QR code and ID check) is to be done by hosts daily for contact-tracing. Facilities are to implement screening protocols, waivers, and a contact-tracing system.

MASK USE POLICY

As per Public-Health regulations, until at least March 15th, 2022, masks are to be properly worn at all times when not actively playing on court. Spectators, coaches, officials, and volunteers are to remain masked unless actively eating or drinking.

CLUB & HOST RESPONSIBILITIES

- Clubs and facilities must adhere to rules and guidelines set out by the provincial health authorities. Communicate with your Public Health Inspector.
- If retail or food services are provided, facilities must ensure current public-health guidelines and capacity limits are followed.
- Communicate guidelines, restrictions, and plan to all members.
- Facilities are to implement screening protocols, waivers, and a contact-tracing system.

SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS, EVENTS & PROGRAMS

PROGRAMMING

- Tournaments and events may operate with caution and must comply with current public-health orders
- Camps and training may continue to take place and must comply with current public-health orders
- Both *singles* and *doubles* events are possible
- If numbers allow, tournament hosts are encouraged to:
 - run events straight through in lieu of hosting Sunday finals.
 - "cohort" age groups at junior events in order to limit interaction between participants. For example: U13/U15 play through, followed by U17/U19.
- The MBA and/or event host reserves the right to limit spectator capacity.

VACCINATION & ELIGIBILITY POLICY

From February 23rd to February 28th, 2022

- All adult athlete-participants, coaches, spectators, and officials must be vaccinated.
- Verification of vaccine status (scanning of QR code and ID check) is to be done by hosts daily for contact-tracing.
 - ★ Please note that a Manitoba Public-Health exemption exists for staff of facilities.
- Athletes, coaches, and officials are to provide proof of vaccination (QR code and government-issued identification) to the MBA no later than 72 hours before event.
- Verification (scanning of QR code and ID check) of spectators is to be done by the host.

From March 1st, 2022 onward (or until further notice)

- All athlete-participants, coaches, spectators, and officials may participate in or attend MBA-run programs and events, as well as MBA-sanctioned competitions. In the case of events being held at venues with a vaccination policy in place, the event will run in accordance with the venue's policy.
- All individuals are required to adhere to the MBA Mask Use Policy (see below).
- All individuals are required to complete and sign a daily waiver and pre-screening form to access MBA events.
- Any individuals displaying symptoms or having been exposed to COVID symptoms prior to or during the event will be expected to withdraw. A new *MBA COVID-19 Program Refund Policy* will be in place until further notice, which will allow individuals to make the safest choice possible without financial loss. The tournament referee or tournament host reserves the right to remove a participant from the draw and ask them to leave if they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

MASK USE POLICY

from February 23rd, 2022 onward (or until further notice)

Well-fitting masks (N95s or KN95s preferred) are to be properly worn by all participant-athletes at all times when not actively playing on court. Spectators, coaches, officials, and volunteers are to remain masked unless actively eating or drinking. Failure to do so could affect a member's standing.

The tournament referee or tournament host reserves the right to remove athletes or individuals for non-compliance.

★ The MBA will have masks available on site.

CLUB & HOST RESPONSIBILITIES

- Clubs, facilities, and event/program hosts must adhere to rules and guidelines set out by the provincial health authorities as well as those outlined in this document. In the case of disconnects between this document and government guidelines, members are to adhere to the stricter regulation. If retail or food services are provided, facilities must ensure current public-health guidelines and capacity limits are followed.
- Communicate guidelines, restrictions, and plan to all members.
- Facilities are to implement screening protocols, waivers, and a contact-tracing system.

SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

PROGRAMMING

- Training permitted, with modifications in place.
- Tournaments permitted. Please consult our tournament-specific guidelines for more information.
- Due to COVID's airborne nature, well-fitting masks (N95s recommended) should be worn at all times by athletes, coaches, and program leaders when not actively playing or training on court.
- 1. LESSONS & TRAINING
 - Group size should conform to current guidelines and physical distancing guidelines. If courts are not regulation-sized or if some courts share lines (in smaller gymnasiums, for example), we recommend measuring the space. Drills should be modified to guarantee adequate physical distancing.
 - Only one-on-one (1:1), one-on-two (1:2), and two-on-two (2:2) drills and training should be considered at this stage. This means a maximum of 4 athletes on a court at any given time. Additional athletes (if a drill is rotating athletes on- or off-court, for example) can remain by the court, space permitting.
- SPARRING
 - Singles and doubles sparring are allowed at this stage. In the event of tightening public-health guidelines, doubles sparring should be the first activity cut, as it involves more movement on court than controlled drills, for example,

ATHLETES & PARTICIPANTS

- Players should handle only their own shuttles or equipment.
- Wear a well-fitting mask (N95s recommended) at all times when not on court.
- If you have symptoms or have reason to believe you have been exposed to COVID, stay home.
- Follow all facility guidelines. We recommend athletes arrive no more than 5-10 minutes before training to limit time spent in common areas.

VACCINATION & MASK USE POLICY

School teams and programs are to adhere to vaccination and mask-use policies set out by public-health authorities and should seek guidance from the Manitoba High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the divisional policies.

The MBA acknowledges that protocols may fluctuate from one school division to another. Our mask-use policy outlined on pages 3 and 4 can serve as a useful guide to keep all athletes safe.

COACHES & PROGRAM LEADERS

- Take facility ventilation and airflow into account when planning programs. Furthermore, facilities should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized using appropriate cleaning products. Clean common or high-touch areas on a regular basis.
- Distance between courts must be measured to ensure adequate spacing according to health guidelines.
- Ensure appropriate quantities of sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, masks, and other necessary items are available for use.
- Communicate guidelines, restrictions, and plan to all participants. Enforce proper mask use.
- Stagger on-court sessions and practices to allow athletes time to leave/arrive without close proximity to others.
- Consider closure of spectator areas. If court space is limited, consider these areas for modified footwork (or other) drills
- Coaches and event/program leaders must adhere to rules and guidelines set out by the provincial health authorities and their respective school divisions, along with protocols set out by the MHSAA. Guidelines outlined in this document should also be taken into consideration, as they outline sport-specific best practices. In the case of disconnects between this document and government guidelines, it is recommended that participants adhere to the stricter regulations.