



BADMINTON
SCOTLAND

Pathway Club Information Pack

2021 - 2022

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1. Introduction

Clubs and Associations are the backbone of badminton across Scotland. By providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for people of all abilities to engage with and experience badminton in a positive way, they are the heartbeat and are such a critical environment to ensure as many people as possible enjoy playing badminton on a regular basis.

Successful badminton nations from all over the world have strong club structures and support clubs to assist in the process of producing world class coaches and players. Scottish Clubs have an important role to play in the development of coaches and players. Through the Pathway Programme, Badminton Scotland will support identified eligible Clubs with additional assistance, resources and development activities for Club infrastructure and governance, plus support and guidance for Coaches through the mentor Programme.

The Pathway Club Programme has been designed to identify Clubs that have the drive, ambition and capacity to grow, implement and develop an environment and culture that will improve opportunities, experiences and standards for Coaches and Players of all ages and abilities to both participate and progress in Scottish badminton and beyond.

2. Purpose & Aims

- Develop a strong club structure that caters for players of all ages and abilities allowing players to both participate and progress in badminton.
- Increase the knowledge and skill of Club Coaches.
- Maximise the number of players participating and training locally, allowing the base of those playing at a young age to expand.
- Create formalised links between Pathway Clubs and Badminton Scotland's Performance Squads (RPS, SDS and Senior Squad).
- Strengthen the club and coaching infrastructure through mentoring and ongoing support through Badminton Scotland, including courses & workshops.
- Develop an inclusive environment by providing opportunities to those with a disability.
- Provide a long-term player pathway encouraging lifelong participation in the sport including non-playing opportunities such as coaching, volunteering, officiating, event organisation etc. (increase participation, improve standard & retain players).
- Providing transitional phases between Pathway Clubs and Badminton Scotland Performance programmes.
- Increase tournament & competition entries nationwide in conjunction with the 9 Regional Groups.
- Maximising the opportunity for Badminton Scotland to work with key partners to make an impact together by collectively growing, developing and supporting badminton in Scotland.
- Help to learn collaboratively with like-minded clubs and Coaches at similar stages of development.

3. Criteria: Clubs who are selected as Pathway Clubs have

Essential

- Have achieved Bronze Shuttlemark and be working towards Silver accreditation (plus, agree to work towards gold as part of development plan, including timescales).
- Clear club vision for next 3 years, including coach development & recruitment (template available).
- Commitment to providing young players with structured training on a weekly basis.
- Minimum of level 1+ (or equivalent) coaching support (and/or be working towards Level 2).
- Club Coaches must be on the Badminton Scotland Coaches Register.
- Have all members and club information accurately reflected in the Go Membership system and kept up to date.
- An identified Child Wellbeing & Protection Officer who has completed necessary training and someone who is not involved in coaching at the club.

Desirable

- Willingness to share learning and experience with other like-minded clubs.
- Encourage members/volunteers to become qualified line judges, and officials identified to train as Umpires.
- Commitment to supporting/encouraging young players to compete in events appropriate to their age and level/ability.
- Club representatives commitment to attending generic and badminton-specific workshops.
- Agreement that a maximum ratio of 6 players to one court be introduced and sessions should be structured (not games-based sessions).

4. How Pathway Clubs Will Fit Within the Performance Pathway

The National Junior, and other, Performance programmes are part of Badminton Scotland's performance pathway. The overall targets that are set focus on success at Olympics and, in particular, Commonwealth Games at Senior level. The targets for the junior programme centre on the development of athletes towards these goals. The nature of elite sport is that standards constantly improve and, subsequently, we must adjust our programmes to meet these challenges.

In some regions there will already be a pathway model in place whereby clubs feed players into regional/group squads. In some areas, this may not be available. The Pathway Club model will integrate with any existing Group structures and the intention is for clubs and Groups to work collaboratively in the best interests of the players, and ultimately the sport, to provide effective opportunities for player development. This model will increase the number of players and support the development of players and coaches feeding into Local, Regional and National structures.

The Para Badminton National & Development Squads are part of the Badminton Scotland performance pathway and are for players with a physical disability. The target for national squad players is success in Paralympics, European Championships and other international competitions.

The aim of the development squad players is to reach the standard to enable them to join the national squad and to take part in national championships and 4 Nations events. The development players will also link in with national junior regional/group squads if appropriate.

5. Benefits

- Additional support from BS Team including RDOs, Competition Co-ordinator & Performance Team.
- Access to Coach Mentor programme.
- Further mentoring opportunities available for coaches through RPS sessions.
- Regional & National Pathway Club Workshops, various throughout the year for Pathway Club Coaches (minimum 2 per year).
- Closed Pathway Club Facebook Group invitation (sharing good practice/ideas/learning).
- Pathway Clubs will be promoted via Badminton Scotland media platforms.
- Specific Pathway Club Coach workshops, 2 per year.

6. Phases of Pathway Club Development

Badminton Scotland recognises that clubs will be at different stages of their development and a phased approach to the ultimate aim will be taken. Clubs will progress at their own pace through these developmental stages and will be supported by Badminton Scotland Regional Development Officers and Staff.

Phase 1:

- Bronze Shuttlemark accreditation.
- Player & Coach development.
- Improve number and quality of coaches and players through participation at workshops, courses and development sessions
- Appropriate number of Volunteers to facilitate various positions within the Club.
- Junior Clubs have formalised links to adult clubs and vice versa to ensure player development & retention
- Proactive links to Active Schools network and Community Sport Hubs

Phase 2:

- Coaches progress through the Coach Education qualifications.
- Increase in numbers entering tournaments.
- Increase in level of tournaments being entered.
- Play in the National Club League.
- All clubs to have achieved Silver Shuttlemark status.
- Junior Clubs to have plans for adult sessions, competitive or recreational, to ensure player retention.

Phase 3:

- Have adult and junior sections.
- Working towards achieving Gold Shuttlemark
- Coach working towards Level 3 qualification (or equivalent).

- Clubs have a clear internal Player Pathway where players are able to reach their full potential
- Clubs with a sufficient number of additional qualified coaches to run multiple sessions
- Signed up to Shuttlemark Inclusive Disability Charter (SIDC)

Phase 4:

- Club members being qualified as Line Judges/Umpires/Referees.
- Coach Level 3 qualified (or equivalent).
- Clubs to organise and run tournaments & competitions.
- Have achieved Gold Shuttlemark status
- Potential to target funding such as Direct Club Investment (DCI)

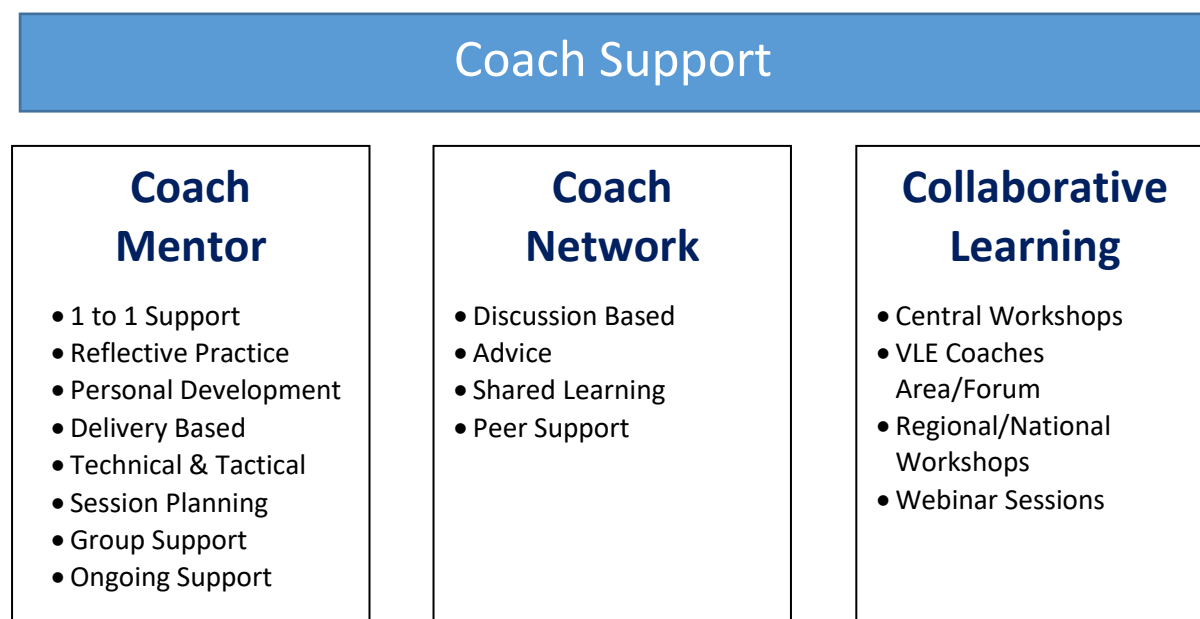
7. Club Support programme

Pathway clubs will be offered support from Badminton Scotland’s Engagement Team. This includes:

- Specific RDO visits
- Use of Club Health Check
- Support on the Club Shuttlemark Accreditation Scheme
- Links to Sport Scotland workshops

8. Coach Support programme

Pathway clubs will be offered various types of coach support shaped around the needs of the club and the coaches. The coach support mechanism will be offered and discussed with each club at Workshop 1.



This is a Coach Support programme to provide club coaches with a mentor to support on a 1 to 1 basis. The mentor will specifically work with the coach to create a club coaching development plan with a focus on:

- Coaching skills, behaviours, and practice
- Confidence and self-belief
- Leadership and decision making
- Interpersonal skills
- Reflective practice

The coach mentor will work with the club over the season via face to face, virtually, email or telephone communications. This is to support club coaches with technical and tactical topics, session planning, advice and guidance on specific delivery-based elements of coaching, providing practical involvement and examples.

This type of support can be offered to a group of coaches working in the club environment. The club will be offered 2 visits across the season. More can be arranged with the agreement of the Mentor and the Badminton Scotland HoE.

8.2 Coach Network

Peer Support

Peer support is a great way to informally access other coaches' thoughts and opinions on a coaching topic or related issue. Peer support can be offered in the form of a Facebook closed group, contact information made available for other coaches on the programme or alternative methods. Clubs can suggest certain ways that could be a successful platform for this. Workshops are also great way to use as networking and information sharing opportunities.

If you wish to be added to this Facebook group, please contact Nicky Waterson, nicky@badmintonscotland.org.uk

8.3 Collaborative Learning

All club coaches will be invited to workshops held throughout the year. Where possible, additional opportunities for information sharing and collaborative learning sessions will be made available. These will take the form of 3 virtual discussion sessions per year, via Teams. This will be Pathway Club Coach led of topics for discussion and facilitated by Badminton Scotland. Dates for these will be agreed at the beginning of each season.

Access to the Badminton Scotland Virtual learning Environment will also be made available. This will host a Coaches area which will contain various resources which can be used. Plus, there will be a chat function which will be used as a Coaches forum, where people can ask questions, stay in touch and develop new ideas and practices.

9. Review

Annual reviews on progress and programmes will be completed in June each year with the Coach Mentor and the Regional Development Officers. However, further discussions will be held throughout the year to discuss progress, opportunities and any other development requirements for the Club or Coach.

This will enable Badminton Scotland and the Club to make any adaptations to the programme to improve and progress on how clubs are supported and it will also ensure the programme is meeting key outcomes and objectives.

This will also help highlight if a club is accepted onto the programme and is not able to make the commitment with regards to the club criteria. Support and guidance will be offered to these clubs on how to progress.

10. The Programme Outline Overview

The below is a draft of the planned activities. Some have still to be confirmed.

Practical Sessions

October 2021 – Virtual sessions with Clubs. Provide an overview to the programme, expectations and discuss Club/Coach requirements.

27 November 2021 – Pathway Club/RPS Coaches workshop at the Scottish Open.

5 or 6 February 2022 – Pathway Club workshop at the Scottish Nationals. Co-ordination & Control.

Virtual Sessions

April 2022 – Pathway Coach/Club led session/workshop – BS delivering content

December 2021 – Coach led discussion point – decided nearer the time

March 2022 – Coach led discussion point – decided nearer the time

May 2022 – Coach led discussion point – decided nearer the time

Mentor Visits

When Coaches have been allocated a Mentor, 1 to 1 in person sessions to be arranged for January 2022 and April 2022. However, these can be changed to meet the needs of the Coach and Mentor. However, dates should be agreed in advance. Further sessions can be organised at the discretion of the Mentor and BS HoE.