Badminton Talent Pathway
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avon player pathway

Elite
- Bristol Jets (National Badminton League Team)
- Great Britain Squads
- English National Squads

County
- Junior County Squad (U12, U14, U16, U18)
- Senior County Squad (5 Senior Teams)
- Masters County Squads (40+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+)
- Avon Junior Development Squad
- Avon Senior Development Squad

Community
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Education
- Schools (PE Lessons & After School Clubs)
- Further Education (Recreational & Competitive Sessions)
- Higher Education (Recreational & Competitive Sessions)
Schools badminton provides opportunities for young people of all ages to try badminton in different formats that suit them. This includes social badminton with big hitting challenges with SmashUp! badminton, coaching from local clubs through the Satellite Club programme or Racket Pack the new primary programme from Badminton England.

Playing standard: Open to all abilities

Age group: Open to all ages

Venue: Primary & Secondary Schools across Avon

Cost: Some after school clubs / satellite clubs may charge a small participation fee

Competition:
There is a number of opportunities for students to take part in appropriate level competition including the National School Championships. Click Here to find out more.

How to take part/join:
If you are interested in getting more badminton opportunities into your College visit the Badminton England website.

Video link: Click Here to play the SmashUp! badminton - the way you want to play video.
Colleges across Avon provide various opportunities for all abilities to take part in badminton at various levels. This includes turn up and play sessions all the way through to competitive teams playing in local, regional and national competitions. The Badminton England FE offer supports Colleges with equipment, training and resources to provide more opportunities for their students to take part in the sport.

Playing standard: Open to all abilities – opportunities are provided for all players from beginner to elite.

Age group: 16-18 years old.

Venue: Colleges across Avon

Cost: Varies dependant on the College.

Competition:
Badminton competition is available for players through the Association of Colleges competition programmes.

How to take part/join:
Speak to your College Sports Maker to find out more about badminton opportunities in your college. If you are interested in getting more badminton opportunities into your College visit the Badminton England website.

Return to Pathway
Universities across Avon are offering various opportunities for their students to take part in badminton at a level appropriate to them. This includes turn up and play sessions all the way through to competitive teams playing in local, regional and national competitions. The Badminton England HE Officer programme supports Universities with equipment, training and resources to provide more opportunities for their students to take part in the sport.

**Playing standard:** Open to all abilities – opportunities are provided for all players from beginner to elite.

**Age group:** 18+ years old.

**Venue:** Universities across Avon.

**Cost:** Varies dependant on the University.

**Competition:**
Badminton competition is available for players through the British Universities & Colleges competition programme. [Click Here](#) to find out more.

**How to take part/join:**
Speak to your Student Union reps for more information on opportunities available at your Universities. If you are interested in getting more badminton opportunities into your University visit the [Badminton England website](#).
tournaments

There are various tournaments run throughout the season offering competition for varying standards of player. For most tournaments (but not all) players need to be affiliated to Badminton England and Avon County.

Playing standard: Dependent on Tournament ranging from casual player to county senior standard

Age group: Tournaments are not limited by age.

Cost: Typically £8 or £9 per event entered.

How to take part/join:
Details are published on the Avon Badminton Association website. If you are an affiliated player you may also be emailed any relevant information.
 clubs

There are over 35 junior and senior badminton clubs across Avon. They offer various levels of play including competition and coaching.

**Age group:** Open to all ages

**Cost:** Membership costs and/or session fees will apply - please contact your local club for more information

**Competition:** Many of the clubs offer competition for players through entry into the affiliated leagues in Avon

**How to take part/join:**
To find your nearest Senior Badminton Club visit the [Avon Badminton Association website](#).

To find your nearest Junior Badminton Club visit the [Avon Schools Badminton Association website](#).

For adult beginners unable to find a local club please visit the ‘Casual Badminton’ section of the player pathway.
casual badminton

Opportunities are available across Avon to play badminton for all abilities. These include pay and play sessions with No Strings Badminton, coaching courses with Essentials Badminton and competitive opportunities through Battle Badminton. All these are available through leisure and community venues local to you.

Playing standard: Beginners & casual players

Age group: 16+ years old.

Cost: Various dependant on the activity & centre (average cost £3-£5 per session).

Venue: Leisure & community centres across Avon.

Competition: Casual players can access competition through Battle Badminton and local tournaments provided by Avon Badminton Association – please see the ‘Tournaments’ section of the Player Pathway.

How to take part/join:
To find a session local to you visit Badminton England’s Ways to Play activity finder.

Video link: Click Here to play the Ways to Play video.

Badminton Talent Pathway
avon junior development squads

Good school or good club level with potential for progression into main squad.

Age group: Under 12, 14, 16, 18.

Cost: Fees dependent on session attended.

Venue: Gordano School, St Mary’s Road, Portishead BS20 7QR.

Competition: Opportunities to enter local tournaments and Badminton England run tournaments.

How to take part/join:
Email: avonjuniorbadders@outlook.com.
avon senior development squads

The squad is invitational only to strong county Juniors 15+, strong club players and existing County players. Run by 4 x qualified coaches. James Elkin (L3), Will Mellersh (L2), Nicky Finch (L2) and Claire Bickingham (L3). Core aims – Pathway Junior to Senior, Ladies Participation, Singles equal focus, connections with Avon Universities, links with ABA and clubs, Elite Para development, growing tournament culture, SCC and 17/20 performance.

Playing standard: County Standard and Strong Club players.

Age group: 15 - 50 years old.

Cost: £6 - £7 a session.

Venue: Wellsway School, Keynsham, BS31 1PH.

Competition: Preparation for SCC Matches and bronze, silver and gold tournament circuit.

How to take part/join:
Contact: Will Mellersh on 07721 443343.
junior county squads

Junior County provides opportunities for junior players to represent Avon in the various age groups.

Playing standard: Good school standard or good club level with teams chosen on ability.

Age group: U12, U14, U16, U18 Girls and Boys.

Cost: Varies according to sessions attended.

Venue: Home venue Gordano School, St Mary’s Road, Portishead BS20 7QR.

Competition: South West Counties League, Shires League, opportunities to enter local and Badminton England tournaments throughout the year.

How to take part/join:
Email: avonjuniorbadders@outlook.com.
The Senior teams are for the highest standard players in the County. Avon 1sts have several England Top 10 players including Chris Coles, Jess Hopton and Kirby Ngan. Avon 2nds have players who regularly compete on the Silver and Bronze tournament circuit whilst the 3rds, 4ths & 5ths have strong county players and developing players. Many strong club players have improved sufficiently to be included in the lower county teams in recent years.

**Playing standard:** Highest players in the County.

**Age group:** 14/15 years old and up.

**Cost:** Selected players pay match fees to participate in the SCC matches.


**Competition:** Senior County Championships.

**How to take part/join:** Enter the bronze, silver and gold circuit events and prove the level of performance to merit selection in the Senior County Teams.
Masters badminton provides opportunities for players over 40 to play county level age group competition. Players play in 5 year age group bands against other counties in the South West. Matches take place on Sundays throughout the season on a home and away basis. Players must be Badminton England and Avon affiliated.

**Playing standard:** Good club player standard.

**Age group:** 40 and above.

**Cost:** £3 registration Fee per season + £8 per match.

**Venue:** Home matches Clevedon School Sports Centre away matches - various. See [Avon Badminton Association website](#) for fixture list.

**Competition:** Masters Inter County Championship and Masters Inter County Challenge.

**How to take part/join:**
Contact Avon Masters coordinator Bob Hammersley email [bob.hammersley@hammersley.co.uk](mailto:bob.hammersley@hammersley.co.uk) or phone 07974183582.
bristol jets national team

The South West’s first National Badminton League team – the Bristol Jets! The Bristol Jets will be joining the AJ Bell National Badminton League in 2016/2017 season bringing elite professional badminton to Avon for all to engage with.

Playing standard: Professional badminton (selective environment).

Age group: Senior players.

Venue: SGS Wise Arena, Filton, New Road, Stoke Gifford, South Gloucestershire, BS34 8LP.

Competition: The Bristol Jets play in the AJ Bell National Badminton League with fixtures throughout the season.

How to take part/join:
The Bristol Jets are keen to inspire players from the South West to take part in badminton and aspire to represent the Jets as an elite player. The team are selected through links to County Squads, Performance Centres and National squads and players. Players for the Jets are selected from these environments.

The Bristol Jets will play their home fixtures at SGS Wise Campus, Filton and have the likes of England Senior player Alex Lane and former international Chris Coles. For more information and to buy tickets for watch the action live Click Here.
english national squads

The Badminton England Performance Team are responsible for the delivery of the England World Class Performance Programmes (WCPP) from junior (EJPP) through to senior, identifying, nurturing and developing the next generation of world class performers capable of medalling on the world stage.

Playing standard: Top English National ranked players and with international experience.

Age group: U13, U15, U17, U19 & Senior.

Venue: Training takes place at the National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes and various locations around the country for training camps.

Competition: Competition takes place through national and international events as supported by the Badminton England Performance Team.

More information:
For more information about the English National Squads please Click Here.
The Badminton England Performance Team are responsible for the delivery of the GB Performance Programmes working with identified talent who have the potential to deliver world and Olympic medal winning performances.

Playing standard: Top National ranked player across GB with international pedigree.

Age group: U19 & Senior.

Venue: Training takes place at the National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes.

Competition: Competition takes place through national and international events as supported by the Badminton England Performance Team.

More information:
For more information about the English National Squads please Click Here.