

WHAM Badminton Club

Badminton Risk Assessment

Chapter 7 of the WHAM Members Handbook | Better Eastern Leisure Centre, Llanrumney, Cardiff

7.1 Purpose of This Risk Assessment

This chapter identifies the main risks associated with playing badminton at WHAM Badminton Club and sets out sensible steps to reduce those risks.

WHAM Badminton Club is a voluntary adult social badminton club. The club plays at Better Eastern Leisure Centre, Llanrumney, on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

This risk assessment applies to normal WHAM club sessions, including doubles play, mixed doubles play, Visitor play and singles play where permitted.

Badminton involves normal sporting risks. This risk assessment does not remove all risk, but it helps the club and its players reduce avoidable risks where reasonably possible.

7.2 Who This Risk Assessment Applies To

This risk assessment applies to:

- members;
- Visitors;
- committee members;
- club officers;
- volunteers;
- anyone taking part in WHAM club sessions;
- anyone helping to organise WHAM club sessions.

All members and Visitors are expected to take reasonable care of themselves and others.

7.3 Main Playing Format

WHAM Badminton Club is predominantly a doubles club.

The normal playing format is doubles, including mixed doubles where appropriate.

Singles games are only permitted where attendance is low and court availability allows.

Where the session is busy, or where players are waiting, games must be played as doubles unless otherwise agreed by the committee or session organiser.

The risk assessment therefore focuses mainly on doubles play, while also including risks connected with singles games.

7.4 General Risk Rating Guide

For the purposes of this risk assessment, the following simple ratings are used:

- Low risk - unlikely to happen, or likely to cause only minor injury.
- Medium risk - could happen and may cause injury or disruption.
- High risk - could happen and may cause serious injury or require urgent action.

The club should aim to reduce risks as far as reasonably practical.

7.5 Risk Assessment Table

Hazard / Risk	Who May Be Affected	Possible Harm	Current Controls / Action Required	Risk Level
Slips, trips or falls on court	Members, Visitors, committee members	Sprains, strains, bruising, fractures, head injury	Players should wear suitable indoor court footwear. Bags, bottles and clothing should be kept away from the playing area. Wet or slippery areas should be reported to venue staff immediately. Play should stop if the court is unsafe.	Medium
Poor or unsuitable footwear	Members and Visitors	Slipping, ankle injury, knee injury, falls	Players should wear appropriate non-marking indoor sports shoes with reasonable grip and support. Players may be asked not to play if footwear appears unsafe.	Medium
Collision between doubles partners	Members and Visitors	Bruising, falls, racket injury, ankle or knee injury	Players should communicate during play, call for shots where appropriate, avoid reckless movement and be aware of their partner's position. Pairings should be sensible and safe.	Medium
Collision with opponents or nearby players	Members and Visitors	Impact injuries, falls, racket injury	Players should remain aware of court boundaries and nearby players. Players should not chase a shuttle into another active court. Play should stop if there is a safety concern.	Medium
Racket contact	Members and Visitors	Facial injury, eye injury, hand injury, bruising	Players should avoid swinging recklessly, especially in doubles. Players should give their partner space and avoid dangerous shots where another player is very close.	Medium
Shuttle impact	Members and Visitors	Eye, face or body injury	Players should play sensibly and avoid deliberately aiming powerful shots at close range where this creates an unnecessary risk. Players should remain alert during rallies.	Low / Medium
Sudden movement, lunging or twisting	Members and Visitors	Muscle strain, sprain, tendon injury, knee or ankle injury	Players should warm up where appropriate, play within their ability, stop if injured or unwell, and avoid overreaching or reckless movement.	Medium
Player already injured or unwell	Members and Visitors	Worsening injury, collapse, medical incident	Players are responsible for deciding whether they are fit to play. Anyone injured, unwell or unable to play safely should not play or should stop playing. Emergency help should be sought where necessary.	Medium / High
Overcrowding or too many players	Members and Visitors	Reduced court space, collisions, unfair playing time	The committee or session organiser may manage numbers, court use, rota systems and Visitor attendance. Singles should not be played when the session is busy.	Medium

Hazard / Risk	Who May Be Affected	Possible Harm	Current Controls / Action Required	Risk Level
Singles play when others are waiting	Members and Visitors	Reduced fair access, frustration, overcrowding on remaining courts	WHAM is mainly a doubles club. Singles are only permitted where attendance is low and court availability allows. Where players are waiting, doubles should be played.	Low / Medium
Players not following rules of badminton	Members and Visitors	Disputes, unsafe play, unfair games	Players should follow the simplified badminton rules included at the end of the handbook. Disagreements should be handled calmly. Where there is genuine doubt, the point should normally be replayed.	Low / Medium
Unsafe serving or reckless shots	Members and Visitors	Eye, face or body injury; disputes	Players should serve and play in a controlled and sportsmanlike way. Dangerous or reckless play should be challenged. Repeated unsafe play may be dealt with under the code of conduct or disciplinary regulations.	Medium
Shuttle hitting roof, speakers or roof structures	Members and Visitors	Dispute, distraction, unpredictable shuttle fall	WHAM club rule: if a high shot hits the sports hall roof, speakers or any roof object or structure, the shuttle is deemed out and the player or pair who hit it loses the rally.	Low
Broken or damaged shuttles	Members and Visitors	Poor play, unpredictable shuttle movement, possible eye/contact risk	Broken, damaged or unusable shuttles should be replaced where reasonably necessary. The club currently uses Yonex Mavis 2000 shuttles. Shuttle arrangements are managed by the committee.	Low
Damaged nets, posts or equipment	Members, Visitors, venue staff	Trips, falls, cuts, impact injury	Obvious equipment defects should be reported to a committee member and/or venue staff. Unsafe equipment should not be used.	Medium
Wet floor, spillages or sweat on court	Members and Visitors	Slips, falls, injury	Play should stop immediately if a wet or slippery area is noticed. The area should be made safe if possible and reported to venue staff. Players should not continue on an unsafe court.	Medium / High
Bags, bottles and personal items near courts	Members, Visitors, other venue users	Trips, falls, obstruction	Personal items should be kept clear of the court and surrounding playing area. Walkways and emergency exits must be kept clear.	Medium
Poor lighting, heating or ventilation	Members and Visitors	Reduced visibility, discomfort, possible illness	Concerns should be reported to venue staff. Play should stop or be adjusted if conditions make play unsafe.	Low / Medium
Fire alarm or evacuation	Members, Visitors, venue staff	Panic, delay leaving building, injury	Players must stop play immediately, follow venue evacuation procedures, and obey instructions from leisure centre staff. Belongings should not be collected if doing so causes delay.	Medium

Hazard / Risk	Who May Be Affected	Possible Harm	Current Controls / Action Required	Risk Level
Medical emergency	Members, Visitors, venue users	Serious injury, illness, collapse	Stop play, call for venue staff, seek first aid support from the leisure centre, and call 999 where necessary. Record the incident afterwards.	High
Lack of first aid provision by the club itself	Members and Visitors	Delay in treatment if arrangements unclear	WHAM relies on Better Eastern Leisure Centre's first aid provisions and first aiders. The committee should know how to contact venue staff and how to direct emergency services.	Medium
Disputes, aggression or poor conduct	Members and Visitors	Distress, intimidation, unsafe atmosphere	Players must follow the code of conduct. Concerns should be raised with the committee. Serious or repeated issues may be dealt with under disciplinary regulations.	Medium
WhatsApp or communication issues affecting attendance	Members and Visitors	Confusion, overcrowding, exclusion	The Club Secretary is responsible for club communications. Members should check communications and respond where necessary. Attendance arrangements should be managed fairly.	Low
Children, young people or public entering sports hall area	Children, members, Visitors, other venue users	Collision, injury, safeguarding concern	Members should be aware of other venue users. Play should stop if someone enters the playing area unsafely. Safeguarding concerns should be reported.	Medium
Manual handling of equipment	Members, Visitors, committee members	Strain, trapped fingers, trips	Nets, posts, bags or equipment should be moved carefully. Awkward items should be moved by more than one person where needed.	Low / Medium
Inadequate knowledge of rules	Members and Visitors	Disputes, unfair play, unsafe play	The simplified badminton rules at the end of the handbook should be used as the club's basic guide. Players should ask if unsure.	Low
Visitor unfamiliar with club arrangements	Visitors, members	Confusion, unsafe play, unfair court time	Visitors should be welcomed and told the basic club arrangements, including payment, doubles format, conduct expectations and safety rules.	Low / Medium
Personal medical conditions not disclosed	Members and Visitors	Medical incident, delayed response	Players are responsible for deciding whether they are fit to play. Members may choose to tell the club about relevant emergency information, but this is voluntary unless needed for safe participation.	Medium
Lone or isolated situations	Members, Visitors, adults at risk, children or young people	Safeguarding or personal safety concern	Members should avoid vulnerable or inappropriate isolated situations, particularly with children, young people or adults at risk. Concerns should be reported under the safeguarding policy.	Low / Medium

7.6 Additional Controls for Doubles Play

Because WHAM mainly plays doubles, the following controls are important:

- players should communicate clearly with their partner;
 - players should avoid both moving for the same shuttle without awareness of each other;
 - players should avoid swinging a racket when a partner is too close;
 - players should not run backwards without checking space where possible;
 - players should call shots where helpful, such as "mine", "yours", "leave" or "out";
 - players should respect the rules for doubles serving and receiving;
 - players should avoid crowding the net in a way that creates unnecessary contact risk;
 - players should be aware of other courts and nearby players.
- Doubles games should be arranged sensibly, taking into account player ability, confidence, safety and fairness.

7.7 Additional Controls for Singles Play

Singles games are only permitted where attendance is low and court availability allows.

Singles play may involve more running, lunging and sudden movement than doubles. This can increase the risk of fatigue, slips, strains or injury.

Players taking part in singles should:

- only play if they are fit enough to do so safely;
- warm up where appropriate;
- avoid overreaching or unsafe movement;
- stop if they feel injured, dizzy, unwell or excessively tired;
- ensure the court is available and not needed for doubles play;
- stop playing singles if other members or Visitors are waiting and doubles play is required.

Singles games should not reduce fair playing time for others when the session is busy.

7.8 Venue Responsibility

WHAM Badminton Club does not own or manage Better Eastern Leisure Centre.

The leisure centre is responsible for the management of the building, sports hall, fire procedures, first aid provision, general venue safety and venue equipment.

However, WHAM members and Visitors still have a responsibility to act sensibly, report hazards and follow venue rules.

Any concern about the venue should be reported to venue staff and, where appropriate, to a committee member.

7.9 Dynamic Risk Assessment During Sessions

Not every risk can be predicted in advance.

Members, Visitors and committee members should use common sense during each session.

If something appears unsafe, play should stop until the matter is resolved.

Examples may include:

- a wet patch on court;
- a damaged net or post;
- a player becoming unwell;
- too many people around a court;
- a child or member of the public entering the playing area;
- a player behaving dangerously;
- a fire alarm or venue instruction.

Safety should always come before continuing a rally or finishing a game.

7.10 Reporting Hazards, Accidents and Near Misses

Members and Visitors should report hazards, accidents and near misses as soon as reasonably possible.

Reports should be made to:

- a committee member;
- the session organiser;
- venue staff, where the issue relates to the leisure centre.

An incident report should be completed where appropriate, especially where someone is injured, first aid is required, emergency services are called, or there is a serious near miss.

7.11 Review of This Risk Assessment

This risk assessment should be reviewed by the committee from time to time.

It should also be reviewed if:

- there is a serious accident or near miss;
- there are repeated minor incidents;
- the venue changes;
- court arrangements change;
- club numbers change significantly;
- the club introduces new activities;
- there is a change in relevant guidance;
- the committee considers that updates are needed.

7.12 Plain-English Summary

Badminton has normal sporting risks.

WHAM mainly plays doubles.

Singles are only allowed when attendance is low and court availability allows.

Players must wear suitable footwear and play safely.

Stop play if someone is hurt or if there is a hazard.

Report unsafe conditions, accidents and near misses.

WHAM relies on Better Eastern Leisure Centre for venue safety and first aid provision.

All players are responsible for taking reasonable care of themselves and others.