

Old Maldonians Badminton Club Playing Children in Open Age Badminton Policy

The following is guidance covering the selection and participation of young players in open age group badminton. This is to help clubs decide when to select young players in open age group badminton and how best to help their development when they play within open age groups. At Old Maldonians Badminton Club we encourage children to aspire to play open age badminton and the following steps ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible.

General

- Making the step up from junior to open age group badminton is a significant event in any player's experience. Ensure the player's safety, personal development needs and overall badminton experience are considered.
- Clubs, squad coaches and managers must take into account the requirements on age detailed in this guidance.
- Each case is to be determined on an individual basis, depending on the player's ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part at this level.

However, the minimum age guidance provided below must be adhered to.

- Juniors should be involved in all aspects of the game wherever possible i.e. socialising, team talks, practice, decision making and so on, so they feel part of the team.
- Children will often feel more comfortable and able to perform if they have a family member or friend also playing in the side.
- Remember, children's early experiences will remain with them always and will often determine whether they want to remain playing the game or give up and do something else.
- Provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way.
- Be supportive, at all times, for all forms of effort even when children are not successful. Try and put them in situations where they will experience some success (however small) and ensure plenty of praise and encouragement.

Minimum age

As a guide a player should be at least 12 years old and are in School Year 8 on 1st September in the year preceding the season, and have written parental consent to play. In allowing these players to play in open age badminton it is essential clubs and coaches recognise the 'duty of care' obligations they have towards these young players.

The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways:

- Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player
- Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play badminton as they would normally do against adult players. In addition, the guidelines note the need for clubs and leagues to recognise the positive experience young players should have in open age badminton. Clubs should provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way.

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