

NZSS BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP & CUP 2026

1) Overview

- a) The Championship shall establish, at a national event, the top New Zealand school for boys' and girls' badminton teams in each year.
- b) The Championship and Cup events shall provide an opportunity to every school in New Zealand to play in a national event and is run as two separate sanctioned events to allow for greatest level of participation and development of players.
- c) Both the Championship and Cup events are sanctioned by School Sport New Zealand.

2) Eligibility

- a) All players must meet the School Sport New Zealand eligibility criteria which can be viewed in detail on the [School Sport New Zealand website](#).
- b) All Secondary Schools in New Zealand shall be eligible to compete in either event. Any Secondary School which incorporates Years 7-13, may include students from Years 7 & 8 in their teams after submitting requesting an exemption from School Sport New Zealand.
- c) Entry shall be made on the official entry form to Badminton New Zealand. The entry includes the name of all potential players in the team and their Badminton New Zealand Player Number.
- d) All players must be enrolled and currently attending the secondary school which they represent.
- e) All players must be under 19 years of age on the first of January in the year of the competition.
- f) Schools may enter more than one team in each section, i.e. boys' or girls'.
- g) A player may enter one team only.
- h) Unless by gender exception specified in School Sport New Zealand eligibility criteria or Badminton New Zealand policy, the Championships shall be gender specific.
 - i) School Sport New Zealand or Badminton New Zealand may grant dispensation to clause 2.h if they consider exceptional circumstances warrant such a dispensation.
 - ii) All cases will be considered by Badminton New Zealand on their individual merit which shall include the health and safety of all participants, unfair advantage (perceived or otherwise), and any policy advise from any other appropriate agency.

3) General Organisation

- a) The event shall be held from Monday to Friday, (unless determined otherwise by Badminton New Zealand) in the Winter Sports Tournament Week, as determined by School Sport New Zealand each year.
- b) The venue for the event shall be determined by Badminton New Zealand.
- c) The boys' and girls' sections **in the Championship and Cup events** shall be open entry. The maximum number of teams who can enter the competition will be advised to schools when entries are called for. The maximum number of teams who can enter is dictated by the number of courts available at the competition venue.

- d) Badminton New Zealand will set the date on which entries close each year. The entry fee for the event will be due to be paid 14 days after this date. Non-payment of fees by the due date will see the entry revoked.
- e) Teams who withdraw after the entry payment date will not be eligible for a refund or part refund.
- f) If entries exceed the maximum number of teams the order of acceptance will be decided in the following order:
 - i) The number one ranked team from each school in each competition (i.e. boys and girls).
 - ii) The highest-seeded teams with the exception of clause 3.f.i above.
 - iii) The order of when entries were received by Badminton New Zealand (i.e. first in, first served’).
- g) Teams will be advised 15 days after the close of entries if they have not been accepted into the competition.
- h) The teams will be seeded according to the most recently published New Zealand National Rankings. The points from the four highest-ranked players in each discipline (singles and doubles) to be considered. Players shall be awarded the highest points of the following:
 - i) 100% of points from the Senior age group; or
 - ii) 100% of points from the Under 19 age group; or
 - iii) 75% of points from the Under 17 age group; or
 - iv) 50% of points from the Under 15 age group.
- i) The team with the highest number of points will be seeded number 1. Every team will be given a seeding for the purpose of making the draw.
- j) If there are still places available late entries may be accepted up until the time that the draw is made and at the discretion of Badminton New Zealand.
- k) The event will commence with a compulsory Team Managers’ Meeting on the first morning of the competition.
- l) Each team shall be responsible for organising and funding their own travel and accommodation.
- m) Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals presented to the three highest-placed teams in all divisions. The winning teams in each division will be awarded Badminton New Zealand Trophies which they will be responsible for until the next event.
- n) This event is Smoke, Drug and Alcohol free at all times.

4) Composite Teams & Home-Schooled Students

- a) The Championship and Cup events are subject to [School Sport New Zealand Regulations](#) shall provide the overarching basis for composite teams and home-schooled students regulations, with the New Zealand Secondary School Badminton Championship and Cup Regulations providing clarification.
- b) Composite teams are unable to compete in the Championship.
- c) All composite teams must complete the appropriate form on the School Sport New Zealand website before entry is accepted.
- d) The acceptance of any composite teams [into the Cup](#), shall be at the discretion of Badminton New Zealand and School Sport New Zealand.
- e) A composite team may include two schools only, with one principal accepting responsibility for the team.
- f) Home-schooled students are not eligible to compete in any School Sport New Zealand sanctioned event.

5) Format

- a) Separate sections will run for boys and girls in each of the Championship and the Cup.
- b) Each team shall consist of a minimum of 4 players and up to a maximum of 6 players. These players must be the same for the entire event.
- c) Each Tie shall consist of 4 singles matches and 2 doubles matches.

6) Draw

- a) Badminton New Zealand has sole responsibility for the creation of the draw.
- b) The Championship is to be played in one division for boys and one division for girls.
- c) The Cup is to be played in one division for boys and one division for girls.
- d) The format of each division will be dependent upon the number of teams entered.
- e) The draw format will be published within 14 days after the close of entries.
- f) Should there be insufficient entries for the Championship, or insufficient entries for the Cup, or entries exceed 44 boys' teams or 32 girls' teams, then the format of the competition will be determined by Badminton New Zealand in conjunction with the Referee with the following conditions:
 - i) If a school has two teams in the same section, Badminton New Zealand has the ability to adjust the positions of the teams in the qualifying rounds so they do not meet each other at this stage of the tournament.
 - ii) Play will be on a round robin basis followed by post-section play to determine a ranking. The intention is that all teams will have a similar number of ties and will play in all rounds.
 - iii) Where possible the format of the draw to include a final.
- g) The draw and schedule will be published at least 7 days prior to the start of the Championships.

7) Ties

- a) All matches will be the best of three games to 21 points, as per the current BWF Scoring System.
- b) A player may only receive advice by their coach, during a match when the shuttle is not in play (i.e. when a rally is finished and during the permitted intervals). Coaches must be seated in the designated seats (behind the court, on their player's side) and must not stand court-side except during the permitted intervals.
- c) No player shall play more than one singles match and one doubles match in any one Tie.
- d) Where a player is unable to take his or her place in the team prior to the commencement of the first Tie the team may name a replacement player.
- e) Any matches defaulted in a Tie other than for injury or illness will also be automatically defaulted by that team for the rest of the tournament.
- f) If, during the playing of a Tie, a player is incapacitated and is unable to continue, the match in progress shall be forfeited. If a team consists of only the minimum number of players then the remaining match in which the incapacitated player is unable to play shall be forfeited. If a team consists of more than the minimum number of players then one other member must substitute for the incapacitated player, in that player's position, in the remaining match of the Tie provided clause 7c is complied with.
- g) If a player is incapacitated, then that team's Manager must confer with the Referee regarding both the incapacitated and substitute players. The Referee shall be the sole judge and his or

- her decision is final. If a match is forfeited, the incapacitated side shall retain their points scored while the other side shall take the extra points needed to win the match.
- h) Teams for each Tie must be submitted by the time set by the Tournament Controller. Failure to do so may result in the results of that tie being discounted as per the decision of the Referee.
 - i) The order of play shall be: First, the doubles in ascending order of merit followed by the singles in ascending order of merit. (i.e. no. 2 doubles, no. 1 doubles, no. 4 singles, no. 3 singles etc.).
 - j) Feather shuttles will be supplied for all ties by Badminton New Zealand.
 - k) The winner of a Tie shall be the team winning the greater number of matches. If the number of matches won is even, then the team winning the greater number of games shall be the winner. If matches and games are even, then the team winning more points shall be the winner. If matches, games, and points are even then the result shall be declared a draw.
 - l) The Laws of Badminton applying to all the Ties shall be those laid down by the Badminton World Federation.
 - m) This event will be played using the Alternative Service Law 9.1.6.
 - n) The Section placings shall be decided by the greatest number of group points. Group points shall be awarded on the following basis:
 - (1) Win – 2 group points
 - (2) Draw – 1 group point
 - (3) Loss – 0 group points
 - i) If two teams have won the same number of ties, the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
 - ii) If three or more teams have won the same number of ties, ranking order will be established by the total matches won, with the team having won more matches ranked higher.
 - iii) If Regulation q)ii leaves two teams equal, the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
 - iv) If Regulation q)ii leaves three or more teams equal, ranking order will be established by the difference between total games won and total games lost, with greater difference ranked higher.
 - v) If Regulation q)iv leaves two teams equal, the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
 - vi) If Regulation q)iv leaves three or more teams equal, ranking order will be established by the difference between total points won and total points lost, with greater difference ranked higher.
 - vii) If Regulation q)vi leaves two teams equal, the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
 - viii) If Regulation q)vi leaves three or more teams equal, the ranking order will be established by drawing lots.
 - o) If a finals Tie ends as a drawn Tie then the winning team shall be declared by the result of the number one singles match.
 - p) All results of any team that has been disqualified or withdrawn before completing the group matches shall be entirely deleted.

- q) The approved clothing for use in badminton competition in New Zealand is “All major items of clothing must be of a type and style intended for the use in racket sports”. It is mandatory that participating schools wear a team uniform that complies with the clothing code.
 - i) Please see the Badminton New Zealand website – www.badminton.org.nz for the Laws of Badminton and the full clothing code.
 - ii) It is Mandatory that all players wear a team uniform for all matches. Team Uniform is defined as matching shirts and the same colour shorts/skirts.
 - iii) The Referee has overall charge of the playing of Ties and has the authority to enforce the Laws of Badminton, Badminton New Zealand Clothing Code or these Secondary School Competition Rules.
 - iv) Any objections or complaints must be lodged in writing to Badminton New Zealand within seven (7) days of the incident.
- r) All rules of the School Sport New Zealand must be adhered to, in particular the rule that all students must be supervised at all times, including travel as per the School Sport New Zealand Code of Conduct 3.2.

8) Media

- a) Still and moving images that have been taken or recorded by or on behalf of Badminton New Zealand may be used in any or all of the promotional, social and advertising material of Badminton New Zealand or provided to any third party, including but not limited to Badminton New Zealand partners and sponsors, for their reasonable use as they see fit. This event will also be broadcast, and your team may be filmed/ interviewed (not all games are livestreamed) and available on demand on Whakaata Māori, Māori Active. At the event, there may also be social media content created such as highlight reels and interviews for use for approved 3rd parties and their platforms (such as sponsors and the broadcaster). Please note we adhere to the [School Sport Charter](#) or all its guidelines in this regard for sponsorship, broadcast and social media surrounding school events. If you have any questions, wish to discuss, have any concerns about this, please contact James Veitch (james@badminton.org.nz) before the close of entries.
- b) If you wish to opt out, please indicate this in the appropriate section on the Team Roster form, due by the close of entries.
- c) Matches in this event will be live-streamed.
- d) Players are requested to be available for media engagement as requested during the event. This may include photographs, interviews and any other reasonable requests of the organisers.