

Youth Competition Handbook 2026-2027

Badminton Nederland

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Introduction

Playing in a competition is a very valuable addition to every child's development. Badminton Nederland (BN) therefore encourages participation in competition in various ways. One way in which we stimulate competition is by offering, from the 2023-2024 season onwards, new competition formats for the different stages of development. The aim is to increase enjoyment and engagement for all stakeholders: the club, the parent and, above all, the child.

When a club starts participating in the youth competition, there is a lot to organise. Especially if you have no prior experience with the youth competition, getting started can be a challenge. To keep the threshold as low as possible for everyone and to encourage participation, this document has been created. The purpose of the Youth Competition Handbook is to support clubs, supervisors and parents in organising the youth competition. The document takes you through the organisation step by step.

Clubs wishing to organise a Bamito FUN Day can indicate this by contacting jeugdcompetitie@badminton.nl. The youth competition team will publish the Bamito FUN Day on badminton.nl so that a clear overview is available of the various Bamito FUN Days being organised.

Enjoy the youth competition!

Determining the Level

One of the key principles of an attractive competition is that matches are exciting. In order to make the level as equal as possible, determining the correct level is important. Every child develops at their own pace. Especially during puberty, a growth spurt has a major influence. One 12-year-old may already look almost 16, while another may look only 9. There can therefore be a considerable difference between what we call chronological age and biological age. Competition is a place where children should develop, and for the youngest players the emphasis is particularly on technique. Moving to a larger court too quickly can result in children relying too much on power. Placement becomes less important because the spaces are larger, which can slow down technical development.

To determine the level of your players, Badminton Nederland has developed a strength rating. This strength rating is shown in the Youth Competition Tool. All competition contact persons receive an email with login details for the Youth Competition Tool. The tool lists all youth players of the club, including their strength rating.

CATEGORY	COMPARABLE TO	STRENGTH RATING	AGE LIMIT
SILVER	Entry level	≥ 14.0000	U11
GOLD	Beginner	≥ 13.0000	U13
D-6	Beginner	≥ 13.0000	U19
C-6	Intermediate	≥ 12.0000	U19
B-8 AND B-6	Advanced	≥ 10.0000	U19
A-8 AND A-6	Highly advanced	≥ 8.0000	U19

In the Youth Competition, feather shuttles are compulsory in category A. Because feather shuttles involve additional costs, this has not been made compulsory for the other categories. However, from the perspective of a child's playing development, the choice of feather shuttles is a factor to take into account and something clubs should consider. If the level of a team calls for playing with feather shuttles, there should also be a plan for this.

Children develop at their own pace. Because all previous results of the children are included in determining the strength rating, it will provide a good reflection of their level. Ultimately, the level of the two players with the best strength rating determines the category of a team.

The section champions of all categories compete for the Dutch Championship after the Youth Competition has finished.

Team Composition

When you want to enter a team in the competition, you first need to know how many children are required for a team. The table below shows, for each category in the Youth Competition, the ages that form the starting point for putting together your team. It is also important to know whether your team must consist of boys and girls, or whether gender is irrelevant. When composing your teams, also look at the players' ages in relation to one another. As a club, try as much as possible to take into account that children like to play with their friends.

CATEGORY	AGE	MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS	GENDER NEUTRAL	NUMBER OF MATCHES	SHUTTLE
SILVER	< 11 years	3	YES	6	Nylon
GOLD	< 13 years	3	YES	6	Nylon
D-6	< 19 years	3	YES	6	Nylon
C-6	< 19 years	3	YES	6	Nylon
B-6	< 19 years	3	YES	6	Nylon
B-8	< 19 years	4	NO	8	Nylon
A-6	< 19 years	3	YES	6	Feather
A-8	< 19 years	4	NO	8	Feather

In the Youth Competition Tool, for which every competition contact person receives their own login, teams can be put together. Based on the players selected for a team, the tool automatically determines the correct category. If a dispensation option is available, the tool will indicate this immediately.

The tool also provides a summary of the categories in which teams can be entered. You need this summary in order to actually register your teams for the Youth Competition via Badmintoninschrijven.

Registration

Teams are registered through the club. Players can tell their coach that they would like to play in the competition. The coach can also encourage players to participate. Ultimately, the club's competition contact person can register teams for the Youth Competition via badmintoninschrijven.nl.

When registering on badmintoninschrijven.nl, complete the following steps:

1. Not available on Sundays on principle: yes or no.
2. Which shuttles does your club use: enter the shuttle used by your club.
3. Manage competition contact persons: enter the details of the competition contact person.
4. Manage Sports Halls: enter the details of the sports hall(s) where matches are played.
5. Manage Venues: enter the day(s) and time(s) on which matches can be played.
6. Competition contact person and number of teams: enter per category how many teams you wish to register (this is the outcome from the Youth Competition Tool) and the name and telephone number of the club's competition contact person (CCP).
7. Teams: indicate for each team in which sports hall they play and at what time.
8. Playing schedules: indicate whether you want the same playing schedule for your teams (all teams play at home at the same time) or an opposite playing schedule (half of the teams play at home at the same

time). With the same playing schedule, you need the sports hall for half the number of competition weeks. With an opposite playing schedule, or if you have no preference, the sports hall must be available every competition week. Also indicate how many courts are available. In the comments field you can also indicate whether you would like the same or an opposite playing schedule to the National League teams of your club, if applicable and where feasible in the scheduling.

9. Submit: check the details and submit your registration.

After registration closes, a draft schedule for the Youth Competition is prepared. This schedule is based, among other things, on travel distance and the playing schedule, and will be sent to clubs no later than 5 June. Clubs will then have the opportunity to comment on the draft. After the clubs' comments have been processed, a final schedule is prepared.

Once teams have been registered, the schedule is final and has been published on badmintonnederland.toernooi.nl, the youth competition team will add players to the registered teams on badmintonnederland.toernooi.nl. This is based on the team compositions entered in the Youth Competition Tool. A player must be a member in order to participate in the competition. Make sure, therefore, that players are registered with Badminton Nederland in good time.

Rules of Play

When you start with the Youth Competition, it is important for the teams that the rules of play are explained clearly in advance. For each stage of the children's development, the rules of the match formats have been adapted to the child's development. This takes into account, among other things, their physical and mental development.

Changing the court is one of the adjustments that has been introduced. In the Silver category, for example, smaller courts are used so that rallies can be established more quickly. The distances are shorter, giving children more time to create a good contact point. Less movement is required, which encourages clean contact with the shuttle. This measure increases enjoyment and can accelerate development. Because less power is needed to hit the shuttle to the back of the court, more attention can be paid to maintaining a relaxed arm. The appendix contains court diagrams showing which part of the court is used for each category in singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

Scoring at all levels is based on rally point scoring. However, the scoring system is structured in line with the child's development. Younger children have a shorter attention span and therefore play shorter matches. There is a progression towards the scoring system used in official senior matches.

Infographics have been created for the different categories. These can be found under the heading "Categories in pictures" on the Youth Competition page:

<https://www.badminton.nl/wedstrijden/jeugdcompetitie/>

Sports Hall Rental

Based on your competition registration, determine how many courts you need and for how long you want to rent them. The estimated time per category is shown in the table below. These times are indicative.

Category	Minimum number of players	Number of matches	Scoring system	Playing time based on 1 court
Silver (U11)	3	6	3 games to 15 (up to 21)	2 - 2.5 hours
Gold (U13)	3	6	3 games to 15 (up to 21)	2 - 2.5 hours
D-6 (U19)	3	6	3 games to 21 (up to 30)	2.5 - 3 hours
C-6 (U19)	3	6	3 games to 21 (up to 30)	2.5 - 3 hours
B-8 (U19)	4	8	3 games to 21 (up to 30)	3.5 - 4.5 hours
B-6 (U19)	3	6	3 games to 21 (up to 30)	3 - 4 hours
A-8 (U19)	4	8	3 games to 21 (up to 30)	3.5 - 4.5 hours
A-6 (U19)	3	6	3 games to 21 (up to 30)	3 - 4 hours

Especially at first, allow ample time for setting up and taking down the courts and other equipment in the hall. If you choose to rotate courts between several teams, the required times will of course be shorter.

Materials

Before the teams arrive to play their competition matches, a number of things must be in order. It is useful to check that all required materials are available:

- net posts: one net post on each outer sideline of the court
- shuttles: one tube per team
- scoreboards: one scoreboard per court
- court numbering
- infographics for all competition levels present
- signage: a floor plan clearly indicating on which court the matches are being played
- benches/seating for spectators and players
- pen and match form
- players' federation membership numbers

Guidance

Team Supervisor

Each team has at least one parent or supervisor present. The guidance required by a team differs by level and age. Guidance in the Youth Competition has a strong educational character. During the Youth Competition, support should therefore primarily be encouraging and supportive. Team supervisors are familiar with the rules of badminton.

Competition Coordinator

The competition coordinator ensures clear signage and a good reception for the teams. Courts are prepared with all materials so that the competition can start on time.

Coach

Coaching during the Youth Competition must at all times be positive and encouraging. For the children's playing development and enjoyment, it is recommended to coach only during changes of ends. In categories A, B, C and D, coaching is also permitted during the interval at 11 points.

Coaches and team supervisors must comply with Badminton Nederland's Code of Conduct for coaches and team officials, which can be consulted at:

<https://www.badminton.nl/kenniscentrum/spelregels-en-reglementen>

Match Forms

The match forms for the different Youth Competition categories can be found via the following link:

[Match forms \(Word document\)](#)

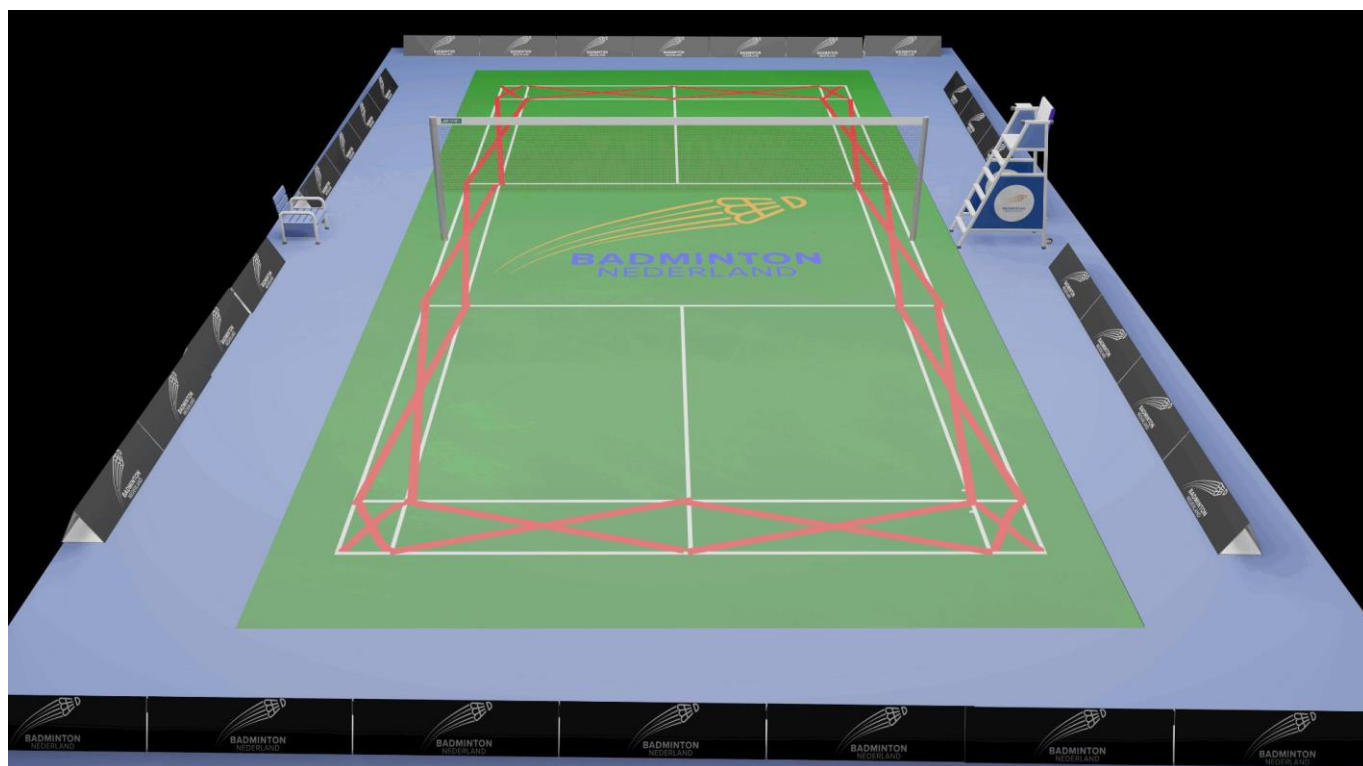
Substitutions

Substitutions are permitted in the Youth Competition. The full substitution rules are included in Article 35 of the Competition Regulations. If anything is unclear, contact the Youth Competition Management.

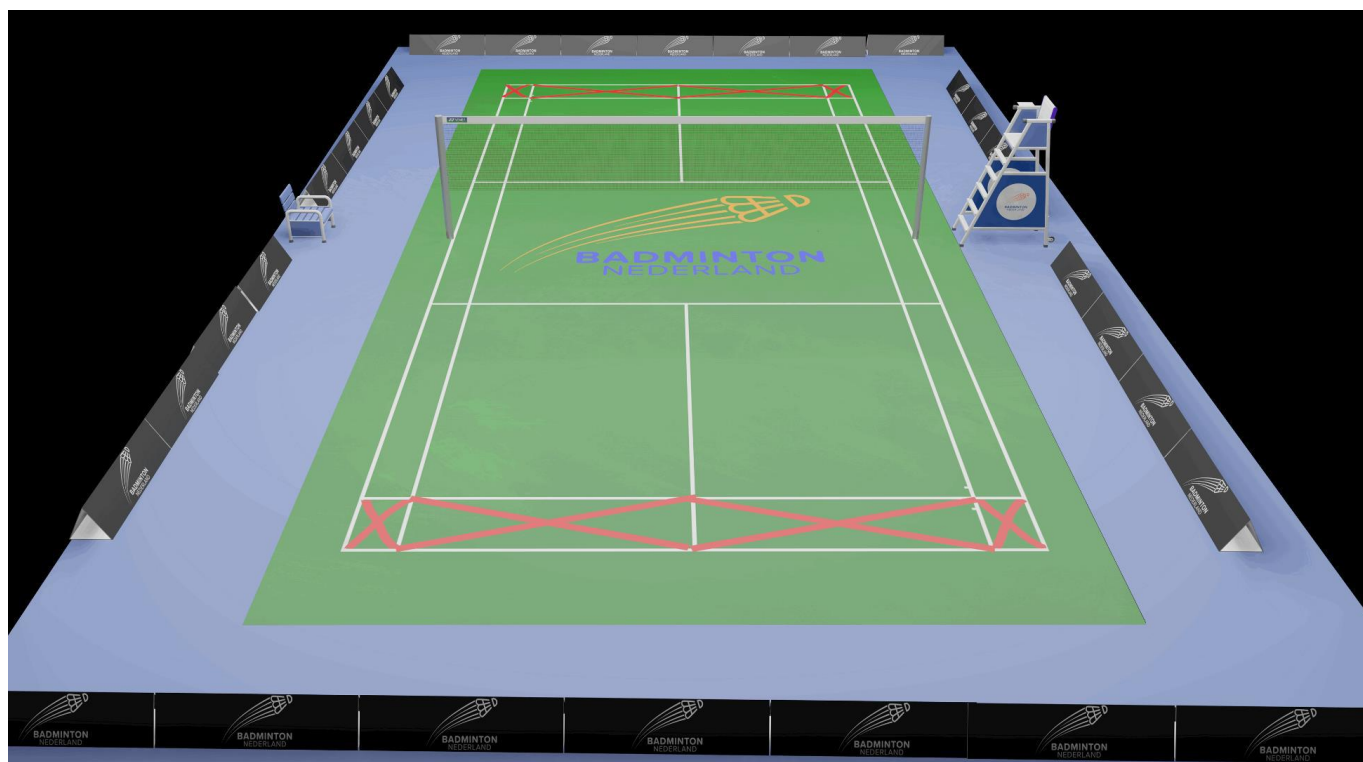
Rescheduling and Rearranging Matches

In the event of illness, injuries or for other reasons, a match may be rescheduled in consultation with the opponent, provided that the Youth Competition Management is informed of the change no later than 24 hours before the original match date. If no agreement on the rescheduling has been reached with the opponent, the match must be played on the match date stated on toernooi.nl, except in exceptional circumstances.

Court Layouts - Silver Category: Singles



Court Layouts - Silver Category: Doubles and Mixed Doubles



Court Layouts - Gold, D, C, B & A Categories: Singles



Court Layouts - Gold, D, C, B & A Categories: Doubles and Mixed Doubles

