

## BADMINTON SPORT INFORMATION GUIDE

### Badminton

Known for its lightning-fast pace and sharp reflexes, badminton demands agility, power, and strategy. Competitors will engage in thrilling singles and doubles matches, rallying for supremacy on the court.

### Competition dates

Badminton competition for Open Masters Games Abu Dhabi 2026 (OMGAD2026) offers Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles and Teams events across Competitive, Recreational and PARA sport categories at the Games.

The provisional Badminton competition schedule for OMGAD2026 is as follows:

	February 7 Saturday	February 8 Sunday	February 9 Monday	February 10 Tuesday	February 11 Wednesday	February 12 Thursday	February 13 Friday	February 14 Saturday	February 15 Sunday
Teams	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Individual	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

All dates and times are subject to change, pending final entries received. A detailed schedule by event for each discipline will be developed throughout 2025.

### Venue: Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC)

 [Pin Location](#)

The events, divisions and age categories for Badminton at OMGAD2026 are as follows:

Discipline/Event	Division	Age Group
Singles (M/W)	Competitive	35+, 45+, 55+, 65+, 75+, 85+
Doubles (M/W)	Competitive	
Mixed Doubles	Competitive	
Mixed Team	Competitive	
Singles (M/W)	Recreational	
Doubles (M/W)	Recreational	
Mixed Team	Recreational	

## Para Badminton

Singles (M/W)	35+, 55+
Doubles (M/W)	
Mixed Doubles	

For the Games, your age is determined as at 31 December 2026. In line with the sport-specific rules, an athlete can compete in a younger age group. Minimum age is 35. The age of the youngest player in the doubles and team events will determine the teams age category. Where there are insufficient entries in an age category or division, the categories may be combined in order to conduct a viable competition.

The awarding of medals will not be affected, that is, individuals and teams will still be awarded medals in the age category in which they originally entered.

Bronze, Silver and Gold medals will be awarded in all categories where entries are received.

If an individual athlete without a team wishes to play in the team event, please specify this when entering through the Games Registration system and the Games Organising Committee will do their best to accommodate all requests.

### Grade definitions

Single and Team Events:

- a) A Grade: Competitive – For elite players who have competed at an international or national team level and for national, state or provincial master's champions.
- b) B Grade: Recreational - For players who play in non-competitive or lower-grade club leagues, as well as social and casual players.

The OMGAD reserves the right to move athletes into a different division.

The OMGAD can look into the possibility of removing one grade division.

### Individual competition

Singles (Men, Women), Doubles (Men, Women) and Mixed Doubles will be offered in two divisions: Competitive and Recreational.

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### Athlete and event eligibility

Athletes may enter a maximum of three individual events. All three individual events **must be** played in the same grade division: Competitive or Recreational. The three events can be any combination of singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

- Players may play a maximum of 2 events per discipline (i.e. Singles, Doubles or Mixed Doubles), with a total of three events.
- The Badminton competition for individual events is dependent on the number of registrations. Round robin (pool play) preliminary rounds will be held.
- Where there is more than one pool, these pools will determine the placings for knockout rounds for medals. Players can expect to compete in a minimum of two matches per event.
- If the players in a doubles pair are in different age categories, the pair must play in the younger age category. Players entering doubles or mixed doubles events must enter the division of the higher level player in the pair.
- Individuals and pairs will be allocated to the division entered; however, the OMGAD reserves the right to re-grade athletes. Players who are re-graded will be advised by OMGAD prior to draws being done.
- Athletes can enter in their actual age category or a younger age category in each individual event, they may play a maximum of two events per discipline.
- Athletes do not have to play in the same age group for all events (i.e. can play in 40+ singles, 35+ doubles as they have a younger partner and 40+ doubles with a different partner).

### Match schedule

The OMGAD shall post the draw two weeks prior to the start of the competition on the Games website and each day of competition at the venue and on the website. It will be the responsibility of all athletes to ensure they have checked the draws and are available to play at the scheduled time and location.

- Players who are not present when called upon to play any match shall forfeit the match and a walkover shall be awarded to the opposing players/pairs.
- Matches may be called up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled match time.
- Players are entitled to a minimum rest time of 30 minutes between matches.

### Process to determine pool placings

The following process will be used to determine pool placings:

- Ranking in individual championships will be established by the number of matches won.
- If two players / pairs have won the same number of matches, the winner of the match between them will be ranked higher.
- If three or more players / pairs have won the same number of matches, ranking will be established by the difference between total games won and total games lost, with greater difference ranked higher.
- If this still leaves two players / pairs equal, the winner of the match between them will be ranked higher.
- If three or more players / pairs have won the same number of matches and are equal in the difference between total games won and total games lost, ranking will be established by the difference between total points won and total points lost, with greater difference ranked higher.
- If this still leaves two players / pairs equal, the winner of the match between them will be ranked higher.
- If three or more players / pairs are still equal, then ranking will be established by drawing lots.
- A conceded match shall count as if completed without the conceding side scoring another point.
- All results of any player/pair that has been disqualified or withdraws shall be deleted.

### Results

- Umpires shall deliver the original tie sheet for each tie to event control within 5 minutes of the official finishing time.
- Players should ensure that following the completion of each match the score sheet is submitted to event control within 5 minutes of the conclusion of the match.
- Player should check the Results Board after each match to ensure that the result is correct. Any concerns should be reported immediately to event control.

### Mixed Team event

A mixed team competition will be played before the individual events. The following information relates to the Mixed Team event:

- The number of entries received will determine each draw. The OMGAD reserves the right to combine any event. Round robin pools will be used and pool placings will determine medal play-offs where there is more than one group.
- Teams will be made up of a minimum three men and three women, with a maximum of four men and four women.
- Athletes may only be a member of one team, in one age category. The team must play in the division equivalent to the division of the highest level player and in the age category of the youngest player. Players may play up a division from their individual entry but may not play lower.

### Team composition

- Prior to commencement of the tournament, all teams will be required to submit to the organiser their team ranking list showing all possible doubles combinations in ranking order.
- Teams must nominate a team captain/manager. All teams must be represented at the team meeting (date to be confirmed).
- Teams must provide their team list showing their playing line-up for the tie no less than 2 hours prior to the scheduled tie time. Late submission of the team list may result in the tie being forfeited.

### Ties / Order of play

- A tie will consist of nine matches: three men's doubles, three women's doubles and three mixed doubles matches, each played as per the current BWF scoring system.
- No player may play in more than three matches in any one tie and no more than two doubles and one mixed doubles in the same tie.
- Teams may play a maximum of three ties per day.
- Each player must play in at least one tie to be eligible for a medal.
- Suggested order of play is: 3rd men's doubles, 3rd women's doubles, 2nd men's doubles, 2nd women's doubles, 1st men's doubles, 1st women's doubles, 3rd mixed doubles, 2nd mixed doubles, 1st mixed doubles.

- A different order of play may be used by mutual agreement between team captains. Should there be a dispute as to order of play, then the above order must be used. Playing order must be according to ranking list submitted.
- Unless otherwise permitted by the Referee, all ties shall start at the times as set in the draw. All named members in a tie must be at pre-tie team line-up. Teams not available to play 15 mins after the scheduled playing time may be defaulted.

### Results

- Team Captains shall deliver the original tie sheet for each tie to event control within 5 minutes of the official finishing time.
- Tie sheets must be signed by the captain of each team, who will be responsible for the accuracy and completion of all details.
- Captains should check the Results Board after each tie to ensure that the declared result is correct. Any concerns should be reported immediately to event control.

### Pool placings

- Tie Result: the winner of a tie shall be the team winning the greater number of matches.
- The Final placings shall be decided by the greatest number of ties won.
- If two teams have won the same number of ties, the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
- If three or more teams have won the same number of ties, ranking will be established by the difference between total ties won and total ties lost, with greater difference ranked higher.
- If this still leaves two teams equal, the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
- If three or more teams have won the same number of ties and are equal in the difference between total ties won and total ties lost, ranking will be established by the difference between total matches won and total matches lost, with greater difference ranked higher.
- If this still leaves two teams equal, the winner of the ties between them will be ranked higher.
- If three or more teams have won the same number of ties and are equal in the difference between total ties won and total ties lost and are also equal in the difference between total matches won and total matches lost, ranking will be established by the difference between total games won and total games lost, with greater difference ranked higher.
- If this still leaves two teams equal, the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.

- If three or more teams have won the same number of ties and are equal in the difference between total ties won and total ties lost and are equal in the difference between total matches won and total matches lost and are equal in the difference between total games won and total games lost, ranking will be established by the difference between total points won and total points lost, with greater difference ranked higher.
- If this still leaves two teams equal, the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
- If three or more teams are still equal, then ranking will be established by drawing lots.
- A team is entitled to medals according to results actually obtained before any withdrawal or disqualification
- If a team is unable to complete all of their pool ties, all the results of that team shall be deleted.
- If a team is unable to complete a match in a tie, the result of that match shall be considered to be 21-0, 21-0 for the purpose of deciding ranking in the pool system. Retiring during a match shall be considered to be not completing a match.

#### Substitutions / Withdrawals

- Once a team composition is submitted, no player/pair can be substituted, except the Referee may approve a substitute (or substitutes) for a player who, in the opinion of the Referee is incapacitated by illness, injury or unavoidable hindrance. A player who is substituted may take no further part in that tie.
- A match conceded due to illness, injury, or other unavoidable hindrance shall count as if completed without the conceding side scoring another point.
- All results of any team that has been disqualified or withdraws before completing the group matches shall be deleted.

#### Competition Details

##### Competition rules

The Badminton competition will be conducted under the Laws of Badminton and Competition Regulations of the Badminton World Federation (BWF). Information on general competition regulations can be found at [www.bwfbadminton.org](http://www.bwfbadminton.org). The competition will also conform to the requirements of the International Masters Games Association, or as otherwise specified in this document.

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### Scoring system

All matches will be played as per the current BWF scoring system. All matches (team and individual events) will be the best of three games to 21 points, with extension until 29 all when the winner shall be the side winning the 30th point.

### Draws/schedules

Draws for both Individual and Teams competitions will be available through the OMGAD website and the Tournament Software website: [www.tournamentsoftware.com](http://www.tournamentsoftware.com) two weeks prior to commencement of the competition.

Schedules for both Individual and Teams competitions will be available through OMGAD website and the Tournament Software website one week prior to commencement of the competition. The Tournament Organiser in conjunction with the Referee reserves the right to amend the schedule where required.

### Officiating of matches

The decision of the Referee on all regulations and interpretations of the Laws of Badminton shall be final.

Athletes may be required to umpire their own matches and may be asked to assist with other umpire duties. Umpires will be provided for all matches in medal rounds subject to availability.

### Substitutions/withdrawals

A player/pair may participate in an Individual event of the Badminton competition only if the player/pair enters by the closing date for registrations.

After the closing date for registrations, a player who has entered and is then unable to take part through illness, injury or any other unavoidable cause, may be substituted by another registered player providing that the rules for age category and grade are followed, and that it is in line with the OMGAD participation terms and conditions.

All results of any player/pair that has been disqualified or withdraws before completing the group matches shall be entirely deleted. A 'no-show' for a match will be treated as a withdrawal.

The BWF GCR regulations 25 regarding player withdrawals do not apply to this event. I.e. If a player withdraws from one event they may still participate in another event.

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### Appeals and protests

There will be no field-of-play appeals. The decision of the Referee on all interpretations of the Laws of Badminton shall be final.

Any appeals, protests and disputes regarding the Tournament Rules must be lodged in writing to the Tournament Organiser prior to the commencement of the competition.

The Referee in conjunction with the Disputes Committee shall determine all appeals, protests and disputes in relation to the Tournament Rules. The Disputes Committee shall consist of the Referee (or his/her deputy), the Tournament Director (or his/her nominee) and one independent player.

### Hours of competition

It is anticipated that competition will start at 1000hrs and continue to approximately 2200hrs each competition day.

### Technical Delegate

The Technical Delegate who will be endorsed by the BWF will be announced in Version 2 of the Guide. The technical Delegate will oversee the implementation of all sport specific rules and requirements at the Games.

### Equipment

OMGAD will provide courts and associated equipment to competition standard.

Two speeds of Badminton approved tournament grade feather shuttles will be available for the competition. The Referee shall determine which speed of shuttle shall be provided for play daily. Shuttles for matches will not be limited. It is the responsibility of each individual/team to bring training/warm up shuttles. Athletes are to provide their own racquets. On-site restringing services will be provided at both competition venues on a user pays basis.

### Uniforms

Acceptable Badminton sports clothing must be worn while playing. It is not mandatory for partners to wear the same design/colour clothing during the individual events, although it is preferable. However, all athletes as a member of a team must wear the same uniform during each tie in the team competition. All Badminton athletes, officials and volunteers must wear shoes with non-marking soles whilst on the competition area of the venue (field of play).

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## Terminology

The following additional terminology is identified to assist with information provided within this Guide:

- Match: A contest between opposing sides of one or two players. A Match is the best of three games.
- Game: A game consists of points won by both sides. The first side to win two games wins the match.
- Tie (team competition): A tie shall consist of 9 matches.
- Tie Sheet (team competition): Details the players to contest each match. The form to be completed showing the result of each match in the tie.
- Team List (team competition): A form submitted by the team captain/manager detailing the names of players from the team to play in each doubles pair, in rank order, according to the ranking list, to contest a particular tie. To be submitted 2 hours prior to the start of a tie.
- Team Ranking List (team competition): A form to be submitted prior to the start of the team competition detailing every possible doubles combination, in rank order. Pairs submitted on the team list must be as per the ranking order from this list.
- Scoresheet: The form used to record the score for a particular match

## Updates

This guide will be updated Version 2 by 1 September 2025. Important additional information will be available at that time. In the meantime, please address all inquiries to: [sports@omgad2026.ae](mailto:sports@omgad2026.ae)