



## Strategy for People with Disability 2020 - 2025

The strategic vision for badminton in Victoria for people with disability  
*Badminton is a sport that can be enjoyed by all. Badminton Victoria is committed to maximising opportunities for everyone to play.*

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## Foreword

Badminton is a sport that can be enjoyed by all. As the state sporting organisation (SSO) for badminton in Victoria, Badminton Victoria is committed to developing the sport for people with disability (PWD) and establishing and developing the structures to ensure a positive experience of badminton for all.

As part of this People with Disability Strategy (PWD Strategy), Badminton Victoria will adopt an 'Inclusive Vision for Badminton'. This important step emphasises the organisation's commitment to the sport for PWD.

Badminton Victoria works in partnership with bodies such as Badminton Australia and Badminton Oceania to support the development of badminton for PWD in Victoria.

The PWD Strategy sets out Badminton Victoria's long-term vision for badminton for PWD, in line with the organisation's strategic aims to ensure that badminton in Victoria is a sport for all.

## Fit for Purpose

The strategy centres on the needs of the player, and the three main underpinning factors affecting the player's experience:

- Clubs and Associations
- Education and Training
- Competitive Play

The strategy will be complimented by a Communication Plan recognising the importance of an increased profile for Para badminton in both attracting players and integrating participants with disability into the mainstream badminton community. The methods for delivering the aims and key targets of the strategy will be set out in a Disability Action Plan, which will focus on operational delivery.

The strategy has been developed by the Para badminton Working Group, a collaboration between Badminton Victoria, Badminton Australia, and Badminton Oceania, and endorsed by the board of Badminton Victoria. This group will continue to monitor and review the strategy in the future.

# Inclusive Vision for Badminton

Badminton Victoria's vision for badminton is to develop a fully inclusive sport for all.

Badminton Victoria will encourage a culture of inclusion to be fostered at all levels; enabling PWD to participate, compete and, most importantly, enjoy the sport.

## Key Aims

This document sets out Badminton Victoria's strategic vision for badminton for PWD. The strategy is based around three key aims:

- To grow badminton as a sport for PWD in Victoria for all impairment groups, whatever their involvement in the game.
- To improve the standard of play of players with disability in Victoria across impairment groups, by supporting the development of competitive badminton in the sport classes recognised by Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- To be considered a leader in accessibility for PWD to play badminton.

The strategy also sets out two overarching, on-going targets. These are:

- Introduce badminton to 50 PWD annually through direct or indirect Badminton Victoria involvement.
- Increase the number of players with disability, registered with a Badminton Victoria member year-on-year from a baseline figure of 19 (as of May 2020).

The strategy is built on a player-focused approach, considering the most important themes for a badminton player's experience.

# Clubs and Associations

To ensure that badminton can truly be considered as a 'sport for all', it is important for our member network to be inclusive of PWD. It is Badminton Victoria's aspiration that every person with disability who wishes to play badminton has an opportunity to access the sport regularly in a positive environment which is local to them.

## Key Objectives for Clubs and Associations

- Establish a network of 'Charter Clubs' that are fully inclusive to provide opportunities for any PWD to participate in badminton regularly. 'Charter Clubs' will meet a benchmark to guarantee inclusivity and will be acknowledged for their leadership in the area. Becoming a 'Charter Club' would be incentivised by Badminton Victoria.
- Work with all member organisations to establish a minimum level of inclusiveness to ensure that a welcoming, positive environment is available at all Badminton Victoria member clubs and associations. These organisations would be referred to as 'Inclusive' clubs and becoming an 'Inclusive Club' would be incentivised by Badminton Victoria.
- Formulate participation programmes, to be delivered by Badminton Victoria and member organisations, to complement and feed the Charter and Inclusive club network.
- Work with clubs to provide new and existing players with disability an opportunity to progress into competitive play at tournaments and competitions appropriate to their experience and skill level.

These Key Objectives will be met by:

- Badminton Victoria will foster a culture of inclusion amongst its member network. It will put in place an initiative to support and reward clubs who display a commitment to participation in badminton at any level for PWD,
- Badminton Victoria will create a 'Charter Club' programme, where targeted clubs are awarded a benchmarked status.
- All other member clubs and associations will be encouraged to attain the status of an 'Inclusive Club'.
- The recognition of 'Charter' and 'Inclusive Club' will fit in with other areas of inclusion, to ensure that the Badminton Victoria network of clubs can truly offer a 'sport for all'.
- Badminton Victoria will continue to offer advice and guidance to badminton clubs orientated specifically for PWD to help them develop and flourish.
- Badminton Victoria will collect more relevant data about any impairments participants in the member network may have, to better cater for their needs. This will be principally done through our database system.
- Badminton Victoria will continue to offer participation-focused programmes for key targeted groups. Badminton Victoria will implement and support projects to engage PWD as part of the legacy of our major events programme.
- Badminton Victoria will work with clubs to develop a programme of competitive opportunities at grassroots level for PWD.

# Education & Training

In order to deliver our aims involving both participation and the player pathway, it is important that a knowledgeable and confident coaching workforce is in place to inspire and educate new and existing players, as well as an appropriately trained group of line judges, umpires and referees to officiate at tournaments involving players with disability.

## Key Objectives for Education & Training

- Continue to refine and deliver a disability-specific coaching framework to allow existing coaches to extend their qualifications to include knowledge of coaching PWD.
- Grow the disability badminton coaching workforce to deliver high quality coaching in Charter and Inclusive Clubs and participation programmes.
- Advocate for the inclusion of disability-specific modules into courses for line-judges, umpires and referees in order to expand the officiating workforce for disability badminton competition.
- Target the disability community for recruitment to the role of court officials.

These Key Objectives will be met by:

Promoting disability coaching courses as and when organised via Badminton Australia.

Design a workshop for coaching PWD which is aimed at improving knowledge and confidence to support coaches and volunteers.

Badminton Victoria will work with Court Officials Committee (BVCOC) to train tournament referees on the specific requirements of Para badminton tournaments.

Badminton Victoria will work with the BVCOC to develop training courses to include Para badminton rules and regulations.

We will work with the member clubs and associations to incorporate Para badminton tournaments into the approved calendar of events.

Badminton Victoria will actively look to encourage and recruit PWD to be coaches and officials.

Badminton Victoria will offer disability awareness training to its staff, in order to increase their awareness of disability issues and facilitate a better and more effective service to PWD.

## Competitive Play

To retain players in badminton and increase playing levels amongst Victorian players, it is important to have a clearly defined competition pathway for players with disability. It is also important that a transparent player pathway is available to allow players with disability to develop towards elite standards.

### Key Objectives for Competitive Play

- Create a development squad (maximum 8 players)
- Provide a pathway to compete nationally, internationally and selection to represent Australia at the Paralympics
- All players in the development squad to be classified for BWF sport classes prior to being accepted on the squad.
- Encourage players to compete in local and regional events
- Ensure that players can compete in all Badminton Victoria sanctioned events
- Encourage clubs to ensure that players can compete in all other events that are supported by Badminton Victoria

These Key Objectives will be met by

- Creation of a development squad, in cooperation with Badminton Australia
- Badminton Victoria will devise and implement a policy which will protect the right of players with disability to play in sanctioned open and graded badminton competition.
- Badminton Victoria will continue to review its Para badminton tournament programme ensuring it is fit for purpose.

## Visibility

It has also been recognised that improving the profile of badminton as a disability sport is integral to its growth and development. A plan will be devised to set out the steps which will be taken to publicise and promote the sport. The Communication Plan will complement the PWD Strategy.

A key part of this will be the introduction of Para Badminton Ambassadors. These will be current players, possibly international representatives, who will share their Para Badminton journey and the opportunities it has created.

## Delivering the Strategy

To deliver the aims and objectives of the strategy, Badminton Victoria will produce an annual Action Plan which will be reviewed annually.