

GZD BADMINTON CLUB

Play Grades Guide

A guide to understanding playing levels at GZD Badminton Club.

HOW GRADES WORK

Play grades are a simple way of categorising players by their current level of ability. At GZD, we use eBadders and a pegboard system to help pair players fairly during sessions, guide league team selection, and give new members a clearer picture of where they fit within the club.

They are not a formal assessment, a ranking system, or a measure of your worth as a player. No one will test you or make you prove your grade — you are encouraged to self-assess honestly based on the descriptions below, and if you are unsure, just ask the organiser. Your grade is also not fixed. As you develop, train more, and gain match experience, it will naturally move up.

Grades are especially relevant when it comes to league play. GZD competes in the Manchester Badminton League and team selection is informed in part by where players sit across these grades. That said, every grade is welcome at every club session — the system exists to support the club, not to create barriers within it.

THE GRADES

E/D-

BEGINNER

You are new to badminton or returning after a long break. You are still building the basics — grip, footwork, and getting the shuttle over the net consistently. Rally length is short and that is completely fine. You are here to get comfortable with the game and enjoy the process of learning.

D+

IMPROVER

You have a grasp of the basics and can sustain a rally with some regularity. You are becoming more aware of court positioning and starting to recognise the difference between a clear, a drop, and a smash, even if execution is still developing. Your serve is taking shape and you are beginning to think about where you are placing the shuttle rather than simply returning it.

C-

LOWER INTERMEDIATE

You play with growing confidence and your core shots are becoming more reliable. Your movement around the court is improving and you can hold your own in casual competitive play. You understand the general structure of a point and are starting to build rallies with some intention behind them, even if consistency under pressure is still a work in progress.

C+**INTERMEDIATE**

You are a solid, well-rounded club player. Your footwork gets you to most shots, your shot selection is purposeful, and you are comfortable in both singles and doubles formats. You think tactically during a game and can adapt when things are not going your way. You compete well at club level and hold your own against a range of opponents.

B-**HIGHER INTERMEDIATE**

You are a strong club player with a noticeably competitive edge. Your movement is efficient, your shot variety is wide, and you can construct and dismantle points with clear tactical awareness. You perform consistently under pressure and are either approaching league-level play or already dipping into it. Opponents at lower grades will find you a genuine challenge.

B+/A**ADVANCED**

You are an experienced, high-level player. Your game is technically refined, tactically intelligent, and physically disciplined. You compete at league level and bring a standard of play that pushes everyone around you. You are a consistent performer in GZD's competitive squad and one of the stronger players in the room on any given session.

A+**COUNTY LEVEL**

You compete or have competed at county level or equivalent. Your game operates at a level above standard club and league play — technically precise, tactically superior, and mentally composed in high-stakes situations. At GZD, you are among the elite within the club and your presence raises the standard of those you play with.

Grades are a rough guide, not a rigid ranking. Your grade can be reviewed at any time — speak to the organiser if you feel you have progressed.

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