

Shoe Policy

5 November 2025

Policy Statement

Only clean, non-marking indoor court shoes are allowed on the court floors – this rule is for both Junior and Senior players, as well as spectators and visitors.

These shoes must be changed into in the clubroom before entering the court area.

All other shoes and footwear must be removed before entering the court area.

This rule applies without exception, except in those cases where special considerations are required, as determined at the discretion of the Club Committee.

For Health and Safety Reasons, playing on the courts in bare feet or in socks is not allowed.

Spectators who are barefoot or wearing socks are asked to remain to the outside of the playing areas at all times to prevent adding moisture to the playing area which could create a safety hazard.

At the discretion of the Club Committee, individuals found to be not wearing the proper footwear may be asked to stop playing until they can return with the correct shoes.

Signs at the Cambridge Badminton Club must be adhered to at all times.

Why wear non-marking, indoor court shoes?

Wearing the correct shoes protects the floors and improves your safety.

Regular shoes, such as trainers, sneakers, crocs, sandals, boots, heels and similar footwear are not designed to be non-marking, so their soles will leave marks on the court floors.

They can also bring in dirt and debris from outside through their treads, which can be transferred onto the courts, potentially causing slips and damaging the floor.

By tracking dirt, dust or stones from outside, you are risking injury to yourself or others by creating a surface that can be slipped on.

Wearing non-marking shoes helps to protect the court floors which are costly for the Club to resurface and maintain.

Properly designed badminton shoes are also lightweight and are crucial for; Support and Stability, Grip and Traction, Safety, Cushioning and Comfort, Flexibility and Agility, Durability, to Prevent Foot and Leg Injuries, and Protection of your Feet.

What are non-marking, indoor court shoes?

“Non-marking” shoes are used during indoor sports such as basketball, tennis, badminton, volleyball, handball etc. They are manufactured with a unique sole created from a rubber-type material to offer maximum friction and a “smooth ride”. They are called ‘non-marking shoes’ or ‘non-markable shoes’ because they are designed not to mark the floor surface or damage them, as regular shoes such as trainers and sneakers will do.

How do I know if my shoes are “non-marking”?

- 1) A lot of modern non-marking shoes will have it written on the underside of the shoe in small print. Ask for badminton non-marking court shoes when purchasing your shoes as this is the best way to know for sure.
- 2) Flip your shoe and use your fingernail to press into the sole. If the sole is dented momentarily, the sole is considered soft and is potentially a non-marking shoe.
- 3) Place a piece of white paper on the floor, rub the sole on the paper and check for scuff marks. If there are no marks on the paper, then your shoes are potentially non-marking shoes.