

## Dublin Schools Badminton review for AGM 27/6/21

Akin to other areas of badminton we had a hiatus on the Dublin schools Badminton League (DSB) this season. We met as a committee via zoom platform early on in September and took valuable advice from our teaching members who advised us on P.E. protocol in their schools, on visiting coaches, limitations on student interactions and travel to matches. It was evident the usual protocol would not fit, and schools would not be in a position until possibly early January 2021 to play any badminton.

At the early stages of September, we were hopeful that internal play would be available to schools in some format so we devised an opt in internal competition in which schools could sign up for a nominal fee to avail of competition formatting medals, and advice. Unfortunately, the proposed start date for this was affected by the prolonged lockdown of Covid-19 after Christmas. There was interest in this, and we took on board feedback through Survey Monkey. The teachers in our linked schools appreciated the open link, however it was noted we could not give advice from Badminton Ireland as they had no protocols for School's Badminton.

The Department of Education said it was the National Governing Body's (NGB) that should advise for Extra Curricular Sport. How and ever BI advised it was Dept. of Education and no further communication was received this year in relation to any aspect of schools badminton ( Covid 19, registration fees etc). It is to be noted that Hockey Ireland, IRFU and Basketball have been all updated throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic through their NGB. Therefore with no specific BI (NGB) advice or clarity for any progression and in respect of the public health advice we made the decision and advised all schools that there would be no internal play under the auspice of DSB . In addition, we found a lack of communication in general from BI regarding schools, registrations and Covid protocol rather disappointing.

On a committee level, we have reviewed our own set up and paired back our communication platform to one main account, saving a considerable amount monthly on our expenditure as we were not drawing in subs or competition fees. We reviewed our committee Constitution which was instated in September 2019 and requested subsequently by Leinster Badminton to ensure it was up to date and inline with Leinster Badminton's request. We still await feedback on this. In the review process we noted the pilot introduction of 5 qualified coaches to developing schools and those who were in search of further coaching in 2019 season was very beneficial to these schools and feedback reiterated same. We would hope to continue this pilot scheme and expand on it with the inclusion of additional qualified coaches in the years to come . Leinster Badminton may be able to further support us in this area in sourcing coaches and assisting us with facilitating a brief overview of how schools badminton works in comparison to individual or club coaching.

Moving forward for next season, we will liaise with our previous school contacts who have given us permission to communicate with them in early September (we issue our opt in/out GDPR documents then for the individual teacher liaisons) and get feedback on the progress of return to play in secondary schools. We envision this to be under the Survey Monkey format and hope to return to play in a safe environment. However, we are aware this may look different to previous years it will take time, and we may need to be creative once again. In addition, we feel more support and guidance must be shared through Badminton Ireland, to Leinster Badminton and then on to DSB in order to facilitate moving forward in the safest possible way.

Wishing all a safe return to badminton.

Dublin Schools Badminton

Chairperson

Secretary

Lynn McCrave  
Cllr. Lynn McCrave

Kim McCrave