



# Dublin Schools Badminton

## Review 2022-23



Dublin Schools Badminton yet again had a very successful year. Many schools returning to all after school/ extracurricular sports was evident in the increase of registering schools for the U14/16/19 Leagues. In total, there was an increase of 18 schools partaking, bringing us close to 50 schools total from all over Dublin and proximity areas, entering over 260 teams.

The league format followed akin to last year in which we adapted leagues to facilitate closer travel between schools and the possibility of running matches as mini blitzes within sections. This assisted facilitating matches and play between schools alleviating time on travel and timetable/ class release time for teachers. From a school’s point of view, release for teachers due to the current climate and staff shortages. It was noted that dates for Finals this year were more in line with schools’ academic needs, and we appreciated the communication regarding dates with the Leinster Schools Executive Representative Margaret Fallow in this respect. We would hope this would be looked at again this year to correlate school holidays, exam dates etc. to best facilitate the majority of schools for an event and we would welcome the same invite to the table when discussing this for next season in Leinster.

### Schools Numbers Playing:

League	Divisions	Teams 2022-23	Teams 2021-22	Notes:
U19 Boys	Div 1-5	45	40	
U19 Girls	Div 1-5	33	19	Div 1 – 2 competitively placed teams
U16 Boys	Div 1-5	52	45	Div 1 – 3 teams – No entries 2021/22
U16 Girls	Div 1-5	51	25	Div 1 – 2 competitively placed teams
U14 Boys	Div 2-5	39	35	No Div 1 standard entries
U14 Girls	Div 1-5	41	27	Combined Div ½ for sections
<b>Total Teams Playing:</b>		<b>261*</b>	<b>191*</b>	

\* Figures are based on initial registration of interest – there are a few anomalies in which teams pull out before competition competes etc., so these are best estimated numbers.

Overall, an increase on circa 70 teams playing over 3 age groups.

### Review of league:

Div 1 still a concern moving forward - inclusivity wanted for all player levels to be included however, Leinster and Irish players far too good to compete against non-players in schools badminton. 4 players on a team means players unbalanced on teams - new initiative or separate competition for individuals at this level, An interschools elite players competition?

Div 5: full with schools – the need for tightening up on specific criteria for new schools and a base line beginners standard. New schools entering but level of play above that of beginners needs to be addressed.

Rules updated to keep in line with needs of the league - accepted by AGM March 2023

Leinster Schools Results for Dublin Schools:

Age Group	Div 1	Div 2	Div 3
U19 Boys	RUp Templeogue College	Runner Up High School	Winner Sandford Park
U19 Girls	Winner St Mary's Naas	RUp St Joseph's Cluny	
U16 Boys	Winner Ard Scoil Ris		Winner Blackrock College
U16 Girls	Winner St Mary's Naas RUp Maryfield College	RUp Mount Temple	Winner Loreto Foxrock
U14 Boys	Winner St Fintan's Sutton RUp Templeogue College		RUp Mount Temple
U14 Girls	Winner Mount Sackville		Rup Loreto Foxrock

This really was an outstanding year for Dublin Schools Badminton and the schools who progressed to the Leinster Finals. From those progressing, in Division 1 and 2 to the All-Ireland finals, please see the results below:

Age Group	Div 1	All Ireland Placing
U19 Girls	St Mary's Naas	Winners
U16 Boys	Ard Scoil Ris	Winners
U16 Girls	St Mary's Naas	Winners
U14 Boys	St Fintan's Sutton	Winners
U14 Girls	Mount Sackville	Winners

CONGRATULATIONS to all competing schools at each level this year.

Next Steps:

- Continue to reinstate coaching available to schools through funds brought in by DSB - using our funds to continue the development of Schools Badminton. Two schools availed of assistance with league organisation/caching for 2/3 weeks. Coaches unavailable this year to fully facilitate further coaching.
- Instate teacher training - not shuttle time - advice on leading sessions with large numbers, scoring, setting up teams, matches and more.
- Leinster Branch Schools Liaison to meet with DSB as proposed in October 2021 - awaiting further info on this.
- DSB finances to be structured and as their own financial identity under the auspices of Leinster Branch - focus for the last 5 years - needs to be discussed with the Executive.

On the whole this has been a very successful year for Dublin Schools Badminton in which many children have got back to playing a sport that is accessible to all. We wish to thank the Leinster Branch for their support in the office in relation to team fees, finals events and more. As a committee we are looking forward to continuing the promotion and play of badminton in schools which is the grass roots for badminton in Leinster. On behalf of myself Schools admin and Lynn Mc Crave Chairperson (St Raphaela's) I wish to thank our committee members; Hazel Bird (Sandford Park), Chris Steele (Mt. Temple), Gary Doyle (Scoil Dara), Orlagh Byrne (Templeogue College) Joe Wright and Andy Tang for a successful year. In addition, I'd like to welcome Bernard Foley (Chanel College) to the committee as of our AGM. The support from this and previous committee members over the last five years to me as administrator of the DSB League has been outstanding. It really is a small army that leads our schools badminton.

Finally, I'd like to advise, as of our AGM March 2023, I have stood down from the administrator role and as a committee member. I will support the committee on a handover of the role into the coming season. I wish to thank all that supported me through this period of DSB and wish them continued success within the only League running for schools in Ireland.



Kim Mc Crave on behalf of Dublin Schools Badminton

May 2023