

Leinster Senior Team

AGM Report 2023

The Leinster Senior Team won the Senior English Intercounty Championship in March 2023 and gained promotion to the Premiership for the 2023-24 season.



A sub-group of the Leinster Executive Committee developed a new selection criteria process, and we are delighted to say that this has been working extremely well for our senior team selection process and for our selectors. The selection criteria have the objectives of sending the strongest team possible to represent Leinster whilst also ensuring that selected players are competing in our Leinster Senior ranked events. To achieve the objectives of our Performance Pathway Pillar, it is imperative that our strongest Leinster players are playing our provincial events and providing development opportunities for our younger players.

Following a very challenging campaign in the 2021-22, the Leinster Senior team was demoted from the Premiership to the Championship. A very strong panel of players was formed to represent Leinster for the 2022-23. The selection criteria were strictly applied, and all were delighted with the performance of the entire panel. The panel had a very well-balanced mix of younger players and more experienced players.

The competition is run over three weekends from November to March and the fixture format is 3MS, 2WS, 2MD, 2WD and 2XD.

Senior Team Panel: Declan Bennett, Sara Boyle, Ashleigh Coyne, Siofra Flynn, Erwin Guan, Scott Guildea, Jennie King, Adam McAllister, Michelle Shochan, Sophia Noble, Vincent Pontanosa, David Walsh.

Manager: Liza O'Rourke

Challenges

- Increasing travel costs. Ideally, additional funding should be sourced to help with the increasing travel costs for these trips. Currently, the Leinster Executive funds this campaign in addition to player contributions made for each trip.
- The standard of competition is extremely high in the Premiership, and we will need to ensure that we have the strongest squad available to compete. This means that all potential squad players will need to understand that selection criteria so that they are eligible for selection. We will also need to ensure that our panel is deep enough to allow for the fact that some players may not be available for all three weekends.
- We were disappointed to be unable to field a Premier Interprovincial team nor a Grade A Interprovincial team. The same selection criteria process was used for selecting these teams

as used for the Senior Leinster team, and additionally, the results from the BI Grade A Open were used for the Grade A team selection.

Despite many players being invited to play, unfortunately, not enough Grade P, A and B players were available. Further analysis will be done to understand why players were not available for selection and to understand what needs to be changed for next season.

Conclusion

A key objective for the 2022-23 season was to rebuild the Leinster Senior panel and if possible gain promotion to the Premiership in the English Intercounty tournament. Remaining in the Premiership and developing a strong pipeline of players will be key goals for 2023-24. An analysis of the issues with fielding Premier and Grade InterPro teams will be performed, and recommendations will be made before the new season commences.

