



## Dublin Schools Badminton Review 2023 -2024

Dublin Schools Badminton have had another good year. Nearly all schools are back to extracurricular activities and sports following Covid. This year again, we have had over 50 schools taking part in all ages U14, U16, and U19. 283 teams took part and that is an increase from last year. This is encouraging, as schools are building more sports halls so in turn more students have the facilities to play badminton. Unfortunately, we have also lost some Schools due to time constraints with teachers getting off for matches. It is easier for coaches to facility matches rather than teaches. It was difficult to find staff to bring the students to matches due to staff storages. This year we noticed that age groups were divided out to three teachers due to work commitments. We followed the same format as last year for the DSB League.

### Schools Numbers Playing:

League	Division	Teams 2023/24	Teams 2022/23	Notes
U19 Boys	Div 1 - 5	44	45	Combined Div 1 & 2. Top 2 went to Div 1 and 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> went to Div 2
U19 Girls	Div 1 - 5	41	33	Div 1 & 2 played a round robin on finals day
U16 Boys	Div 1 - 5	56	52	Winner of section 1&2 played the Div 1 final. Runner up in each section played the Div 2 final
U16 Girls	Div 1 - 5	62	51	Combined Div 1 & 2. Top 2 went to Div 1 and 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> went to Div 2
U14 Boys	Div 2 - 5	50	39	No Div 1 standard. Combined Div 2 & 3 Top 2 went to Div 2 and 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> went to Div 3
U14 Girls	Div 1 - 5	30	41	Div straight final. Combined Div 2 & 3 Top 2 went to Div 2 and 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> went to Div 3
Total Teams Playing:		283	261	

As you can see there is an increase of just over 20 teams in the last 2 yrs. A few schools had to pull out at the beginning of the season.

Review of the League: DSB require to revise standards of division of play with Leinster. It was noticed this year there weren't as many teams in Division 1 and 2. We had a lot of Division 4 and 5 players which was great, but DSB will have to tighten up on the level of play. Many schools were too strong for Division 4 and 5.

Leinster Schools Results for Dublin Schools:

Age Group	Division 1	Division 2
U 19 Boys	Runner-Up Ard Scoil Ris	Winner Sandford Pk
U 19 Girls		Runner-Up Loreto Swords
U 16 Boys	Winner St. Fintan's	
U 16 Girls	Winner Mt. Temple Runner-Up Loreto Foxrock	Runner-Up Holy Faith Clontarf
U14 Boys		Runner-Up Sutton Pk.
U14 Girls	Winner Maryfield A	Runner-Up Maryfield B

Congratulations to all the schools that reached the All Irelands, but unfortunately, we had no winners this year. I gather some of the matches went right to the wire.

It was noticed that Dublin seems to be the only County running a professional league, yet others can come in having not played a game. Then able to play in the Leinster's, win and also win All-Irelands. This is something that should be looked at, and also the standard of Divisions going forward looked at for future alignments of standard of players.

Next Steps:

- Instate teacher training – advice on leading sessions with large numbers, especially the scoring system for teachers. Also, students don't have to use flip charts for league matches.
- Encourage teachers to get involved, even in a small capacity in their schools.

We wish to thank the Leinster Branch for their support over the year. I personally want to thank Kim McCrave for her assistants in the first year of the Administration duties and for her years before. This role was all new to me even though I've been involved in badminton all my life. On behalf of myself, Schools admin. Councillor Lynn McCrave Chairperson, (St. Raphaela's) I wish to thank the committee members: Gary Doyle (Scoil Dara), Orlagh Byrne (Templeogue), Bernard Foley (St. Fintan's), Chris Steel (Mt. Temple), Joe Wright (Leinster Executive) and Andy Tang for a successful year and hopefully next year will be just as successful as this year.

New committee members welcome. Please acknowledge the Chairperson or Admin if you could give sometime to DSB committee.

Yours in Sport

Hazel Bird

On behalf of Dublin Schools Badminton

