

Youth Activities Committee

AGM Report 2024

The Youth Activities Committee is a sub-committee of the Leinster Executive Committee, and its main objectives are to increase juvenile participation in Leinster, and to promote & develop badminton at all levels in juvenile badminton. The committee, with the assistance of Leinster Branch staff, is responsible for running ranked and unranked Tournaments, Leinster Intercounty Competitions, Leinster Squads & Development Squads and Leinster Schools Finals.

Leinster Intercounty Finals 2024

Leinster Intercounty Finals were held at U13, U15, U17 and U19 age groups. As normal, Leinster Badminton provided the t-shirts to all the County teams. The winner of Division One in each age group goes on to represent Leinster at BI's All-Ireland Intercounty Finals on April 27th.



Leinster U19 Intercounty Final Results:

Division	Gold	Silver
One	Carlow	Dublin
Two	Kildare	Meath
Three	Louth	Offaly

Leinster U17 Intercounty Final Results:

Division	Gold	Silver	Bronze
One	Dublin 1	Dublin 2	Kildare
Two	Meath 1	Kilkenny 1	Offaly
Three	Carlow	Louth	Meath 2
Four	Kildare 2	Kilkenny	

Leinster U15 Intercounty Final Results:

Division	Gold	Silver	Bronze
One	Dublin 1	Kildare 1	Dublin 2
Two	Carlow	Meath 1	Kilkenny Black
Three	Laois	Offaly	Kildare 2
Four	Kilkenny Amber	Meath 2	Wexford Louth

Leinster U13 Intercounty Final Results:

Division	Gold	Silver	Bronze
One	Dublin 1	Dublin 2	
Two	Kildare	Meath	
Three	Carlow	Wexford	Offaly

Congratulations to all the players, team managers, team coaches and County Associations. Thanks go to the parents who bring their players to training, to matches and are their biggest supporters.

Multi-age Juvenile Intercounty Blitz

A multi-age Juvenile Intercounty Blitz will be held in May.

Leinster Schools Finals 2024

The YAC continued to run the Leinster Senior Schools finals at U14, U16 and U19 ages. We are delighted with the level of participation in this competition, with growth at all ages since 2023 and look forward to further growth in the coming years.

Leinster Senior U14 Schools Finals had 33 schools from 10 counties. Disappointingly, there were no entries to the Division One Boys competition.

• Boys U14 Division	Gold	Silver
One		
Two	Kilkenny College, Kilkenny	Sutton Park, Dublin
Three	Kilkenny College, Kilkenny	Ard Scoil Chiaran Naofa, Offaly

Girls U14 Division	Gold	Silver
One	Maryfield A	Maryfield B
Two	Kilkenny College	Loretto Foxrock
Three	Kilkenny College	Holy Faith Clontarf

Leinster Senior U16 Schools Finals had 36 teams from 10 counties.

Boys U16 Division	Gold	Silver
One	St. Fintan's Boys School Dublin	Kilkenny College
Two	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny	CBS Naas
Three	St. Andrew's College Dublin	Abbey Community School Kilkenny

Girls U16 Division	Gold	Silver
One	Mount Temple, Dublin	Loretto Foxrock
Two	Presentation Kilkenny	Holy Faith Clontard
Three	Loretto Bray	St. Brendan's Community School, Offaly

Leinster Senior U19 Schools Finals had 37 schools from 9 counties.

Boys U19 Division	Gold	Silver
One	Kilkenny College	Ard Scoil Ris
Two	Sandford Park	Scoil Airegail Ballyhale
Three	Wesley College	Dundalk Grammar

Girls U19 Division	Gold	Silver
One	St. Mary's College Naas	Kilkenny College
Two	Colaiste Abhainn Ri	Loreto Swords
Three	Our Lady's Terenure	Kilkenny College

Leinster Primary Schools Finals

The Leinster Primary Schools Finals consisted of 14 boys teams and 14 girls teams that travelled from Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Wexford, Meath, Louth, Carlow, Wicklow and Dublin.

The event was run by the Youth Activities Committee in collaboration with BI Activation Officer, Gary Kehoe.

Primary Schools Boys	
1 st	Mayo N.S. Laois
2 nd	St. Pius X Boys N.S.
3 rd	Windgap N.S.
4 th	Adamstown Castle E.T.N.S

Primary Schools Girls	
1 st	St. Anne's Ardclough Kildare 1
2 nd	St. Anne's Ardclough Kildare 2
3 rd	Windgap N.S.
4 th	Kill of the Grange N.S.

Leinster Juvenile League Finals

Leinster Interleague finals are planned for May 12th at U15 and U17 age groups and will see Carlow, Dublin and Kildare league winners competing for the Leinster Juvenile Interleague title.

- Dublin Juvenile Leagues had 101 teams involved leading to 21 league finals and 14 cup finals.
- Kildare Badminton Association had 30 teams with 12 finals to be held April 28th.
- Carlow Badminton Association started a new juvenile league competition this season and ran leagues at U15 & U17 with 8 teams involved from Carlow and Kilkenny.

Many thanks go to the volunteers in each of the Counties for running their juvenile league competitions.

Leinster Juvenile Tournaments

Ranked Tournaments

YACs run the U15/U19 Leinster Open and the U13/U17 Leinster Open. The U15/U19 Leinster Open was held in January with 129 entries which is an increase of 50% on the entries in 2023.

The U13/U17 Leinster Open is being on 20-21st April with 167 players entered across both age groups. Because of the size of entry, both Terenure and Baldoyle Badminton Centres will be used on the Saturday with semi-finals and finals to be held in Baldoyle on Sunday.

Although, not a ranked tournament, the Leinster Yonex Juvenile Christmas Close continues to be an extremely important tournament in the Leinster juvenile calendar. There were 148 entries in 2023 which grew from 122 entries in 2022.

Festival of Tournaments

This set of tournaments continues to grow from strength to strength. The tournaments are for Leinster club players and are closed to Leinster and National squad players. As in 2023, half of the Fests are held in Dublin with the other three tournaments held in Meath, Kildare and Carlow. Many thanks go to Margaret Fallon, Martin Sheridan and Martin O'Hanlon and their teams of volunteers for running the Fests in their home Counties.

The Leinster WestsideFest in Kildare had a massive entry of 193 players up from 160 players in 2023. The Leinster CarlowFest had 152 entries which grew from 136 players in 2023. The Leinster DecemberFest in Meath had 89 entries which grew from 71 entries in 2022.

Leinster Squads and Representative Teams

Since September 2023, Leinster squads for U11, U14, U16 and U18 have been held. Players were invited onto these squads based off previous tournament results. Additionally, Development Squads were formed at U13, U15 & U17 age groups. The Leinster Representative teams have been selected from these squads for the U11 Friendly Tournament vs Alpha, the U14 Celtic Challenge, the U16 Celtic Challenge and the U18 ICT. A total of 108 players were invited onto these squads

As part of our Player Pathway strategy, new Leinster Development Squads and Leinster Squads were formed at U13, U15 and U17 in February 2024 and 78 players have been invited onto these squads.

The Interprovincial teams to compete in the Juvenile Interprovincial competition to be held in

November 2024 will be selected from these squads. New squads at U11, U14, U16 & U18 will be formed in August. Each squad has a head coach and then a panel of coaches has been formed from which additional coaches are asked to also work at the various squads. Much thanks go to all the coaches for the efforts over the last year.

All selection criteria are published on the Leinster Badminton website.

U11 Friendly match vs Alpha

This continues to be a highly valued event for introducing younger players to the enjoyment of team events. Managed by Elizabeth Foley, the players participate in four squads in the Autumn and then get to play a Challenge match against a team from Alpha. Thanks go to Elizabeth, Coach, Sumesh Tharian and to all the parents for their ongoing support.



U14 Celtic Challenge

The U14 Celtic Challenge was hosted by Leinster in Terenure Badminton Centre in February and thanks go to the YACs committee and the many volunteers for hosting an excellent competition between Lothian, Wales, Ulster and Leinster. Leinster won Gold at the competition under the management of Kirsty Kelly, and Sumesh Tharian as Coach.



U18 English Intercounty Tournament

The U18 Leinster Team has made history and won Gold at the U18 ICT to retain the title for the second year in a row. This is a phenomenal achievement and shows the strength of our Leinster juvenile players. Much thanks go to Jean Kelly, manager of the team and the coaches David Walsh and Adam McAllister who coached a total of ninety matches over the four-day competition and Liza O'Rourke who was responsible for player welfare.



U16 Celtic Challenge

The U16 Leinster team has been selected to compete in the Celtic Challenge in Scotland in May. Thanks go to Managers, Gordon Chambers and Joe Byrne and to Coach, Lauren Au.

Challenges

- The Youth Activities Committee is a voluntary committee and depends upon a small number of highly dedicated and hard-working volunteers. There are many more activities that the Committee would love to embark upon but needs to avoid overloading the already extended volunteers from the committee.
- We are extremely fortunate to have several top coaches working with our squads. However, we still need more coaches to be able to provide more opportunity for more players.
- The juvenile calendar from January to December is proving to be extremely challenging, particularly as the senior calendar has not changed and continues to run from September to April/May. Same as last season, we have found January to April to be far too heavily loaded with Juvenile events which has made it extremely difficult to fit all of competitions and

squads into the season. The new season began on the 1st January and we have had to play all schools competitions, all intercounty competitions, both the U13/U17 Leinster Open and the U15/U19 Leinster Open, the Interpros, the U18 ICT, and the U14 Celtic Challenge by the end of April. The multi-age intercounty blitz and juvenile Interleague finals will be held in May. With the exception of the Fests in the Autumn and the Christmas Close, there are no further competitions to be held by Leinster until after January 1st 2025.

Conclusion

A big thank you to all the Youth Activity Committee members for their commitment, enthusiasm and hard work – Jean Kelly, Liza O’Rourke, Grainne Kinnerk, Brian Kelly, David Hogan, Kirsty Kelly, Shanthini Chandra, Muriel Moles, Simon Keane, Gordon Chambers, Joe Byrne, Laura Kinnerk and Elizabeth Foley. Thanks also go to the many volunteers working in the Counties who run the juvenile leagues and the Fests.

Many thanks go to the Leinster Executive for their continued support.