

Youth Activities Committee

AGM Report 2025

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.

The committee, with the assistance of Leinster Branch staff, is responsible for running Ranked and Non-ranked Tournaments, Leinster Intercounty Competitions, Leinster Interleague Competitions, Leinster Squads, Leinster Representative Team competitions and Leinster Schools Finals.

The juvenile calendar runs from January to December and therefore, most of the information provided in this report relates to the 2024 juvenile season. At the time of writing, several tournaments, Leinster Intercounty finals, Leinster Schools finals and Leinster representative team events for 2025 have been held.

2024 Leinster Intercounty Finals

Leinster Intercounty Finals were held at U13, U15, U17 and U19 age groups. As normal, the Leinster Youth Activities Committee provided t-shirts to all the County teams. The winner of Division One in each age group represented Leinster at BI's All-Ireland Intercounty Finals.

We were delighted to welcome Laois and Wexford back to the competition after a significant absence.

Thanks go to Jean Kelly, Brian Kelly, Shanthini Chandra and Liza O'Rourke for running the Intercounty Finals.



2024 Leinster U19 Intercounty Final Results:

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

2024 Leinster U17 Intercounty Final Results:

Division	Gold	Silver	Bronze
One	Dublin1	Dublin2	Kildare1
Two	Meath1	Kilkenny1	Offaly
Three	Carlow	Louth	Meath2
Four	Kildare2	Kilkenny2	

2024 Leinster U15 Intercounty Final Results:

Division	Gold	Silver	Bronze
One	Dublin1	Kildare1	Dublin2
Two	Carlow	Meath1	Kilkenny Black
Three	Laois	Offaly	Kildare2
Four	Kilkenny Amber	Meath2	Wexford Louth

2024 Leinster U13 Intercounty Final Results:

Division	Gold	Silver	Bronze
One	Dublin1	Dublin2	
Two	Kildare	Meath	
Three	Carlow	Wexford	Offaly

All four Leinster County teams represented the Branch at the 2024 All-Ireland Intercounty Finals and we were delighted to take home Gold in all four age groups:

- U19 All Ireland Champions: Carlow
- U17 All Ireland Champions: Dublin
- U15 All Ireland Champions: Dublin
- U13 All Ireland Champions: Dublin

2024 Leinster Schools Finals

The YAC continued to run the Senior Schools finals at U14, U16 and U19 ages. Many thanks go to Brian Kelly, David Hogan, Joe Byrne, Ita Marron and Muriel Moles for running the Leinster Schools Finals.

- Leinster Senior U14 Schools Finals had 33 school teams from 10 Counties.
- Leinster Senior U16 Schools Finals had 36 school teams from 10 Counties.
- Leinster Senior U19 Schools Finals had 37 school teams from 9 Counties.

Additionally, in collaboration with BI Activation Officer, Gary Kehoe, the YACs ran the Leinster Primary Schools Finals. 14 Boys Teams and 14 Girls Teams participated in the Leinster Primary Schools Finals, with the winners going on to represent Leinster at the All-Ireland Primary Schools Finals.

2024 Leinster Juvenile Interleague Finals

The Youth Activities Committee was delighted to reintroduce the Leinster Juvenile Interleague Finals after an absence of this competition over the last few years. Three County Leagues entered the competition: Carlow Juvenile League, Dublin Juvenile League and Kildare Juvenile League. The competition was run for U15 and U17 League winners from the three County Leagues. Thanks go to Muriel Moles and Liza O'Rourke for running the competition.

U15 Leinster Mixed Interleague results:

- Gold: KADCA Junior BC
- Silver: Portarlington Parochial BC

U17 Leinster Mixed Interleague results:

- Gold: WHRJBC
- Silver: Kilcullen juvenile BC

2024 Leinster Juvenile Tournaments

Ranked Tournaments

The Leinster juvenile ranked tournaments continue to grow. In 2024, there were 129 entries in the Leinster Yonex U15/U19 Open which was an increase of 50% in entries compared to 2023. The entry has grown to 156 entries in the Leinster Yonex U15/U19 Open in 2025. The Leinster Yonex U13/U17 Open had 167 entries in 2024 which is slightly larger than the 166 entries in 2023. In 2025, the Leinster Yonex U13/U17 Open has grown to 192 entries. Due to increasing numbers of entries, it is now necessary to use both Terenure and Baldoyle Badminton Centres for the Juvenile ranked tournaments. Thanks go to Jean Kelly, Liza O'Rourke, Brian Kelly, Muriel Moles, Shanthini Chandra for running the ranked tournaments. Thanks also go to the Court Officials Group for providing referees and umpires for our events.

Festival of Tournaments

This set of tournaments continues to grow from strength to strength. The tournaments are for club players living and playing in Leinster and are closed to Leinster and National squad players. YACs are delighted that we have now achieved our target to have half the tournaments held outside Dublin. In addition to the WestsideFest in Kildare, the DecemberFest was held in Navan and the CarlowFest was held in Carlow. Many thanks go to Margaret Fallon, Martin Sheridan and Marton O'Hanlon and their teams of volunteers for running the Fests in their home Counties. Thanks go to Jean Kelly, Grainne Kinnerk, Gordon Chambers and Joe Byrne for running the Fests in Dublin.

The YACs also run the Leinster Yonex Christmas Close from 27-29th December every year and this tournament also continues to grow.

Tournament Entries	2025	2024	2023
Christmas Closed		182	148
December MeathFest		105	89
NovemberFest		95	139
September Fest		148	132
CarlowFest	208	152	136
WestsideFest	165	193	160

2024 Leinster Squads and Representative Teams

The Leinster squads are run by our volunteer Managers and our Coaches, and many thanks go to this group for the ongoing work they do with our talented young players. In addition to our Head Coaches for each squad we have a panel of experienced coaches who also coach at the squad sessions.

There are two sets of team competitions for Leinster juvenile teams. The first set occurs in the first half of the year and consists of the U14 Celtic Challenge, the U16 Celtic Challenge and the U18 Intercounty Tournament in Nottingham, also known as “Notts”. The second set occurs in the Autumn and consists of the U11 annual friendly match versus Alpha, and the three Interprovincial competitions at U13, U15 and U17.

The team competitions continue to be hugely popular with Leinster juvenile players. The competition to make these teams is fierce, and a robust set of criteria is published on the Leinster Badminton website to ensure that the selection process used is transparent and fair. To join a Leinster squad, all parents/guardians are required to return a consent form for their player which covers several items, including an acknowledgement that selection criteria have been read and understood.

2024 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 Grainne Kinnerk, and coached by Sumesh Tharian, the players participated in four squads in the Autumn and then played a Challenge match against a team from Alpha.

An U11 Blitz was held in September 2011, and all players who attended the Blitz were invited to attend the U11 squads. As this is a Development Squad, all players are encouraged to play the Fest tournaments.



U11 Leinster Development Squad

2024 U14 Celtic Challenge

The 2024 U14 Celtic Challenge was hosted by the Youth Activities Committee in Terenure Badminton Centre. The team was managed to Kirsty Kelly and coached by Sumesh Tharian. Thanks go to Jean Kelly, Brian Kelly, Liza O'Rourke, Grainne Kinnerk for running the competition.



Team: *Lochlann O'Rourke, Rohan Joseph, Niall Keane, Eoin Evans, Advik Manchukonda, Alston Rodgers, Aoife O'Sullivan, Meja UndraiYTE, Madhu Smrithi Nelakuditi, Arshia Khungar, Carol Joy, Anusri Erukkatil*

2024 U18 English Intercounty Tournament

For the third time only in the history of competing in the English Intercounty Tournament over the last four decades, Leinster won Gold. And to make this achievement even more remarkable, this was back-to-back Golds with this incredible group of young players. The management team was Jean Kelly & Liza O'Rourke and the Coaches were David Walsh & Adam McAllister.

We fully expect to see these players represent the Leinster Senior team in the coming seasons and wish all our Leinster players well as they move on from juvenile badminton.



Team: Liza O'Rourke, Jean Kelly, Praneel Reddy Vallapureddy, Paddy Nolan, Pranav Erukkatil, Aman Kothiyal, Adam McAllister, David Walsh, Nicole Joy, Orlaith Evans, Chloe McGrane, Laura Heery, Michelle Shochan

2024 U16 Celtic Challenge

The U16 Leinster Team won Gold in Scotland. The team was managed by Joe Byrne and coached by Lauren Au. Many thanks go to Mary Brooks Byrne who also travelled with the team and provided all the support that a traveling team needs.



Team: Lauren Au, Lochlann O'Rourke, Robert Lynch, Theo O'Connell, Charan Deep Rajulapati, Dave Jaison, Watt Winston, Joe Byrne, Liya Prakas, Rasa Norvaisaite, Carol Joy, Hannah Shochan, Amira Pender, Alana Savio

2024 BI Interprovincials

The U13 Leinster Team, managed by Jean Kelly won Gold.



Team: Aksha Vageesh, Janisha Singhvi, Likhitha Subbegowda, Arshia Khungar, Madhu Smithri Nelakuditi, Daire O'Sullivan, Benjamin Liu, Christon Rodgers, Advik Manchukonda, Alston Rodgers

The U15 Leinster Team, managed by Gordon Chambers also won Gold.



Team: Yuwen Neh, Wyatt Winston, Charan Deep Rajulapati, Rasa Norvaisaite, Aisling Heery, Elma Luque Sakka, Lochlann O'Rourke, Dave Jaison, Ananya Gopinath, Serah Elsa Arun

The U17 Leinster team, managed by Liza O'Rourke, finished off the Triple by also taking home Gold.



Team: *Levina D'Silva, Yuna Luque Sakka, Riya Prakas, Alana Savio, Liya Prakas, Aaryan Mahesh, Andrew Hassett, Adhithyan Gopinath, Lorcan McGrane, Dylan Noble*

Leinster Representation on Juvenile Irish National Teams in 2024

We are delighted to report that once again, several Leinster juvenile players were selected on U13, U15, U17 and U19 National Teams in 2024. Congratulations to the following players:

2024 U13 National Team

- Advik Manchukonda
- Daire O'Sullivan
- Likhithaa Subbegowda
- Arshia Khungar

2024 U15 National Team

- Wyatt Winston
- Hannah Shochan
- Amira Pender
- Carol Joy
- Rasa Norvaisaite

2024 U17 National Team

- Andrew Hassett
- Carol Joy
- Nicole Joy
- Hannah Shochan

2024 U19 National Team

- Dylan Noble
- Pranav Erukkatil
- Senan O'Rourke
- Siofra Flynn
- Michelle Shochan

Challenges

- The Youth Activities Committee is a voluntary committee and depends upon a small number of highly dedicated and hard-working volunteers. A Development plan is being finalised and will need the full support of the Leinster Executive Committee to be brought fully to fruition.
- The rising cost of travel is an issue for all, and this is no different for the Youth Activities Committee. Fortunately, due to the healthy financial position of Leinster Badminton, the YACs would hope to continue to receive financial support from the Executive Committee to allow these team trips to continue.
- 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. Our new Development Plan aims to continue to develop coaches across the province that will play invaluable roles in Provincial and County activities.
- Access to Baldoyle and Terenure Badminton Centres: we need to continue to have access to both Leinster Branch centres to continue our Development Activity. As demand has increased for courts, we have not been able to access the courts as much as we want to. We feel that this is of strategic importance for the Branch and all efforts should be made to ensure that Leinster Youth Development activities are prioritised for access to courts in both Leinster Branch centres.
- The "new" juvenile calendar from January to December continues to prove to be extremely challenging, particularly as the senior calendar has not changed and continues to run from September to April/May. 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 and U16 Celtic Challenge by the end of April. 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 2026.

Conclusion

2024 was a phenomenally successful year for Leinster's Youth Activities Committee. Growth across all competitions is extremely healthy. The juvenile representative teams brought home six wins across all competitions played.

A big thank you to all the Youth Activity Committee members for their commitment, enthusiasm and hard work.

Many thanks go to the Leinster Executive Committee and our sponsor, Yonex, for their continued support. Thanks also go to Tony Weir and the staff at Baseline for working with us to fit out our teams so well.