

# Leinster Branch Secondary Schools Badminton Competition

## Rules 2025-2026

### **Rule 1:**

- 1.1** A separate competition will be held for boys and girls
- 1.2** Age groups U-14, U-16 and U-19 on 31st December of current school year
- 1.3** A division 1 and division 2 will take place in each of the age groups. Further divisions may be played although these will not advance to the All-Ireland finals.

#### **1.3.1 Division 1 player's definition:**

In the previous 2 seasons, if a player is any of these listed below:

- Irish International Player
- International player from abroad that has played representative badminton at state/regional/provincial or national level
- Irish National Team/full squad member (involved or invited)
- Provincial team/squad member (involved or invited)
- Provincial team/squad member (involved or invited) including individual provincial title holders from the previous season (e.g., Connacht or Ulster U15 champions)
- County Juvenile player competing at Division 1 juvenile standard and who represents their County in any Inter-County team competition
- Juvenile Club member that plays at Division 1 league standard or the equivalent highest juvenile league

#### **1.3.2**

Those considered to be high performance players by the competition organisers but not covered by rule 1.3.1 must compete in Division 1 only

#### **1.3.3 Division 2 player's definition:**

- County juvenile players competing at Division 2 standard or below
- Juvenile Club members that compete in Division 2 or equivalent league standard or below
- School players

#### **1.3.4**

Teams in Division 2 may have one player only who is invited to participate in branch level squads (Leinster Branch Main Squads Only) prior to the commencement of the school's competition or who has participated in branch level squads in the previous year. Or up to two players who are of county/regional squad standard (including Leinster Branch Development Squads). More players of these standards on a team will result in them being classified in division 1.

#### **1.3.5 Division 3 player's definition:**

- Beginners that have just started or are playing less than 1 academic year

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Schools have the right to appeal the placement of players/teams once sufficient evidence is submitted for reclassification. Schools Competition Organisers have the power to re-classify players/teams deemed to be not covered by the rules set out above. Please also see Rule 12.

### **Rule 2:**

- 2.1** Teams will be composed of four boys or four girls
- 2.2** Six games will be played, four singles and two doubles in result sheet order unless otherwise directed by competition officials
- 2.3** Players must play in order of merit in both singles and doubles. This order must be registered with the appropriate committee before matches begin and used for the duration of the competition
  - 2.3.1** The first singles player must play first doubles
- 2.4** Should this order of merit change over the course of the competition, a change in order must be filed immediately by the team coach/manager/teacher in charge. Failure to take such action could result in the loss of those games in which said player participated. The school's competition committee/organisers can also make such a change if deemed appropriate.

### **Rule 3:**

- 3.1** Players must declare for and play in **one age group** of the school's competition only
- 3.2** No player may play on two teams other than as set out in rule 3.5 and rule 3.5.1
- 3.3** If a player leaves a school, they may not continue to play for that school
- 3.4** All players including substitution panel must be registered before the competition
- 3.5** In the event of a nominated player from any age group not being available for any match, a player from a lower team in the **same age group** may substitute
  - 3.5.1** If a player subs up on a higher team than normal (in same age group) more than twice during the course of the competition, they may not return to the lower team during the same season but may be eligible to play on the lower team the following season
  - 3.5.2** A player may not participate in two finals
- 3.6** The substitute must come in at the bottom of the singles event. This rule will be applied on the assumption that any substitute is weaker than the team players. The doubles rule of first singles player playing first doubles still applies.
- 3.7** Once a match begins, no substitute may be introduced except on the day of branch and All Ireland Finals
  - 3.7.1** In the event of an injury during a match on the day of branch finals, the player/doubles pair must concede the match currently being played. If a player is injured in the singles, they may be replaced with a substitute for the doubles

### **Rule 4:**

- 4.1** The competition shall take the form of a league or round robin
  - i.e. – ALL teams play each other
  - 4.1.1** Organisers reserve the right to place the teams according to division

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- 4.2** Each game shall be to 30 points – **NO Setting – NEW SCORING RULES APPLY.**  
Change of ends will take place when 15 is reached.

### **Rule 5:**

- 5.1** Either school PE clothes or recognised sports wear must be worn for all games

### **Rule 6:**

- 6.1** Appropriate adult supervision must be provided by the schools involved at all matches, i.e. – teacher and/or parental, and must be present in the hall during the match at all times
- 6.2** Coaching of players by teachers/coaches while a game is in progress is allowed at change of ends during branch and all Ireland finals only.

### **Rule 7:**

- 7.1** Good quality cork based plastic shuttles should be used for all Schools matches  
7.1.1 Feather shuttles may be used in matches if both teams agree. If either wishes to use plastic then these will be used by both for the match

### **Rule 8:**

- 8.1** All six games must be completed/conceded
- 8.2** Each match will be decided by the number of games won (4/2 5/1)  
(1) If drawn the winner is the team with the most points won (145/144)  
(2) If still equal, then a double tie breaker will be played 1<sup>st</sup> doubles play again (same partnership) to decide match winner
- 8.3** In a round robin format the overall winner is the team with most matches won  
1) If 2 teams equal the winner between them is the winner of group  
2) If more than 2 teams equal the winner is the team with the most points won in all matches in group

### **Rule 9:**

- 9.1** The winner of the Provincial Division 1 competition will qualify for Division 1 in the All Ireland Finals.  
The winner of the Provincial Division 2 will qualify for Division 2 in the All-Ireland Finals.

### **Rule 10:**

- 10.1** Winning teams must return trophies cleaned and engraved to the appropriate organiser at least one month before the date of finals

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### **Rule 11:**

- 11.1** Each Province shall notify the Badminton Ireland Office of the teams coming forward to the finals as soon as provincial finals are played in each age group with full contact details - runner up details are also required
- 11.2** If a school that has qualified from provincial finals decides not to take up the place in the All-Ireland finals, the runner up may be asked to take their place
- 11.3** All Provincial finals are to be completed three weeks in advance of the All Ireland Finals in order to facilitate the organisation of the All-Ireland Finals. Results from provincial finals are to be sent to the Badminton Ireland office no later than 2 days after the provincial finals

### **Rule 12:**

- 12.1** The school's competition committee/organisers shall have the power to enforce all regulations concerning these competitions and to decide for any matters not provided for in the rules which may come to notice whether or not a formal protest has been lodged
- 12.2** No school competition committee member/organiser may vote on a problem that concerns their own school

### **Rule 13:**

- 13.1** The Dublin area Division 1 and 2 winners and runners up will qualify to play in Leinster Finals in their respective divisions only – i.e.: Division 1 Dublin winner and runner up will both go into the Division 1 Leinster finals, same for Division 2. Dublin area Division 3 winners only qualify for the Leinster finals.

### **Rule 14:**

- 14.1** The Division 1 Dublin and/or Leinster Finals Winning Teams and Runners Up teams must stay in Division 1 in the following season providing there are 2 of the same team members. This rule applies even when a team is moving up in Age Groups.
- 14.2** The Division 2 Dublin and/or Leinster Finals Winning Teams must play in Division 1 the following season providing there are 2 of the same team members. This rule applies even when a team is moving up in Age Groups.
- 14.3** The Division 3 Dublin and/or Leinster Finals Winning Teams must play Division 2 in the following season providing there are 2 of the same team members. This rule applies even when a team is moving up in Age Groups.

End