

U16 Leinster Celtic Challenge 2025/26 Selection Criteria

1 POLICY OBJECTIVES

To select individuals to represent Leinster at the U16 Celtic Challenge, 21-22nd February in Munster.

The rules of the U16 Celtic Challenge competition stipulate that:

- No team is allowed to have more than 6 different boys and not more than 6 different girls throughout the whole event.
- Each match will consist of 3BS, 3GS, 3BD, 3GD and 3XD.
- A player can only play singles and doubles, or alternatively, doubles and mixed.

Therefore, to enable the selectors to maximise the winning potential of partnerships, players will be selected using results in a minimum of two events i.e. singles and doubles, or doubles and mixed.

2 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

For players to be considered for selection they must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be an affiliated member of a Leinster Badminton Club and be in good standing with Leinster Badminton.
- Not be under disqualification or suspension under the rules of BWF, Badminton Ireland or Leinster Badminton.
- Born in 2011 or later.
- Hold a valid passport with the appropriate travel documents.
- Results from all tournaments listed below will be used for selection purposes. If a player is not available to play any of the tournaments below this will put them at a disadvantage in relation to players who can play in all listed tournaments.
- Must participate in 60% of Leinster squad sessions, unless pre-agreed in writing with squad manager or due to exceptional circumstances: illness, injury or a conflicting national, provincial or county badminton event.
- Must return all necessary consent documentation.
- Payment must be made in full to be eligible for team selection.

3 PLAYER SELECTION CRITERIA

In reaching their selection the selection panel will consider the following:

- Results from the following tournaments will be used for selection:

- U15 Munster Open (Jan25)
- U15 Leinster Open (Mar25)
- U15 Ulster Open (Mar25)
- U15 Connacht Open (Nov25)
- U15 Nationals (Dec25)
- U15 Leinster Christmas Close (Dec25)
- Combined results for singles/doubles or doubles/mixed.
- Partnership considerations from tournaments and squads.
- Head-to-head results against other Leinster players in National tournaments.
- Head-to-head results in Leinster Squads.
- Multi-event versatility.

4 PLAYER AVAILABILITY FOR PREPARATION AND COMPETITION

Upon selection for the team, the player must confirm their availability for the duration of the competition. A further condition of selection will be the player's commitment to the preparation process prior to the event. For instance, if the squad manager organises additional team sessions to the original squad schedule, selected players are expected to participate, unless the Manager grants permission to miss the session.

5 OVERRIDING FACTORS

- Should a player with an established record of high-level results become injured and be unable to compete in the events listed in Section 3, the player may be considered for selection based on previous performances (i.e. the player's results from the same event 12 months previously will be used) and subject to passing a suitable fitness test.
- If an injury occurs to a selected player after selection, they will be required to demonstrate an appropriate level of fitness (as determined by Leinster Badminton) to remain as a selected player.
- Attendance, behaviour and performance of players will be constantly reviewed throughout the season and continued selection will be dependent on these factors.
- If an injury occurs to a selected player after nomination, it is possible for a replacement player to be selected if it is in the interests of the team.

6 APPEAL PROCESS

Appeals to the selection may be made in writing to the Chairperson of Leinster Badminton within 72 hours from the date and time players have been notified by Leinster Badminton of the team selection.

The sole ground for an appeal is that the selection policy was not properly followed. An appeal **must be** made in writing with appropriate and sufficient supporting documentation and must be accompanied by a deposit of €100.00, payable to Leinster Badminton. If an appeal is upheld the deposit will be refunded in full.

Within three working days of receiving the appeal, the Chairperson (or an appointed deputy) will appoint a group of three selected people with relevant experience ('Appeals Committee') that will investigate the appeal.

Any person with a perceived conflict of interest/bias must not participate on the Appeals Committee. No member of the Appeals Committee shall have been involved in the original selection process.

The Chairperson will in writing inform all parties about the Appeals Committee's decision to either uphold or reject the appeal.

7 DESELECTION

A player selected for the Team may be deselected from the team if the player:

- Due to illness or injury, in the opinion of the Squad Manager becomes unable to perform to the required standard. Medical advice may be taken.
- Demonstrates a lack of commitment to squad sessions and designated tournaments listed above.
- Breaches or fails to fulfil a requirement of the Anti-Doping Policies of Badminton Ireland, the Badminton World Federation or other approved agencies.

8 SELECTION PANEL

The selection panel will consist of a member of the Youth Activities Committee, a member of the Coaching team and an independent selector.

In the event of a member of the selection panel becoming unable to participate in the selection process, a replacement will be chosen by the Chairperson of the Youth Activities Committee.

9 SELECTION DATE, NOTIFICATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Leinster Badminton will notify all players who have been selected by email by 20th January 2026 (subject to change if criteria amended).

The selection will also be published on the Leinster Badminton website after emails have been sent to selected players. Any player who might be difficult to contact by normal means during this period should inform Leinster Badminton in advance of alternative contact details.

If a player has not received notification personally on that day, it is his/her responsibility to contact Leinster Badminton to confirm the situation.