

Leinster Senior County Championship Selection Criteria 2026-27

1 POLICY OBJECTIVES

To select individuals to represent Leinster at the English Senior County Championships on:

1. November 7th – 8th 2026
2. January 30th – 31st 2027
3. March 20th– 21st 2027
4. Playoffs April 24-25th 2027 NBC Milton Keynes

The rules of the SCC competition stipulate that:

- Each fixture can be played with a minimum of 4 men and 4 women. Leinster may choose to send 5 men and 5 women.
- Each match will consist of 2MS, 2WS, 2MD, 2WD and 3XD.
- The pairs in each doubles event shall be composed of entirely different players.
- One male and one female are permitted to compete in a maximum of 3 disciplines. All other players may only compete in a maximum of two events per tie.

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, doubles and mixed or singles 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.
- In the event of a player being a member of more than one club, their primary club must be a Leinster club for the duration of the current season.
- Not be under disqualification or suspension under the rules of BWF, Badminton Ireland or Leinster Badminton.
- Hold a valid passport with the appropriate travel documents.
- Results from the tournaments listed below in Section 4 will be considered for team selection purposes.
- Must be available for head-to-head games if deemed necessary by selectors.
- Must be residing in Leinster or have been born in Leinster.
- Must be a member of a team which will compete in one of the following leagues in Leinster in 2026/27 – BPL or DDLC or SWLBL as published on the Leinster Badminton calendar.

3 SQUAD SELECTION CRITERIA

The Leinster Senior teams playing in the SCC will be picked from the Leinster squad.

For the inaugural senior squad, invites will be issued to those players that were selected to play on the Leinster Senior Team in the last two seasons.

As the season progresses, squad invites will be issued to those Leinster players that:

- 1) Rank in the top 4 of their discipline (MS, LS, MD, LD, XD) in BI rankings at the time of review
- 2) Actively compete in the BWF / BEC circuits outside of Ireland
- 3) Reach a semi-final in a qualifying tournament, and that player is graded B or higher as an adult or C or higher as a juvenile.

Discretionary invites may be issued based on performances at qualifying senior selection tournaments and recent head-to-head results.

Trial invites may be issued to emerging talent or players returning from injury.

Invited players will be accepted on the squad once the Player code of conduct has been signed and returned and any squad fees have been paid.

Senior squad numbers will be limited to 24 players and will aim to have a balance between the different events (MS, LS, MD, LD, XD).

Continued membership of the squad will be subject to regular review.

A player may be deselected from the squad if:

- A player's ranking, results or form decline
- Non-attendance at squad training without written valid notice
- They are unavailable to play on SCC dates
- Breaches of the Player code of conduct
- Voluntary withdrawal in writing to the squad captain or committee chairperson

The committee may update these rules as necessary as the season progresses.

4 TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

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

- Results from following tournaments: Senior Nationals, the 4 Provincial Opens and the Leinster Autumn Open:

- November SCC Fixture:** Results from the Leinster Autumn Open and the Connacht Premier open

Sep 19 th -20 th 2026	Connacht Premier Open
Sep 5 th -6 th 2026	Leinster Autumn Open

and the best results from 2 of the following

Feb 2026	Irish National Championships
Jan 2026	Ulster Premier Open
Nov 2025	Leinster Open Championships
Oct 2025	Munster Premier Open

- January SCC Fixture:** Best results from 4 of the following tournaments:

Nov 28 th – 29 th 2026	Leinster Open Championships
Oct 31 st - Nov 1 st 2026	Munster Premier Open
Sep 19 th -20 th 2026	Connacht Premier Open
Sep 5 th -6 th 2026	Leinster Autumn Open
Feb 2026	Irish National Championships
Jan 2026	Ulster Premier Open

- March SCC Fixture:** Best results from 4 of the following tournaments:

Feb 6 th -7 th 2027	Irish National Championships
Jan 9 th -10 th 2027	Ulster Premier Open
Nov 28 th – 29 th 2026	Leinster Open Championships
Oct 31 st - Nov 1 st 2026	Munster Premier Open
Sep 19 th -20 th 2026	Connacht Premier Open
Sep 5 th -6 th 2026	Leinster Autumn Open

- Performance at squad training sessions
- Partnership considerations.
- Head-to-head results against other Leinster players in National tournaments.

5. Must be available for head-to-head games if deemed necessary by selectors.
6. Performance on the Leinster senior team in the previous season.
7. Players missing qualifying tournaments due to international tournaments

5 PLAYER AVAILABILITY FOR PREPARATION AND COMPETITION

Upon selection for the Squad, 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, players will make themselves available if additional head-to-head results are required by selectors.

6 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 4, the player may be considered for selection based on previous performances 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.

7 TEAM SELECTION 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.

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.

8 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.
- Breaches or fails to fulfil a requirement of the Anti-Doping Policies of Badminton Ireland, the Badminton World Federation or other approved agencies.

9 SELECTION PANEL

The selection panel will comprise of

- Georgina Ward
- Enda Daly
- Simon Keane

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 Senior Committee.

10 SELECTION DATE, NOTIFICATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Leinster Badminton will notify all players who have been selected for the November fixture by Fri, Oct 2nd.
2. Leinster Badminton will notify all players who have been selected for the January fixture by Fri, Dec 11th.
3. Leinster Badminton will notify all players who have been selected for the March fixture by Fri, Feb 14th.

The selection will also be published on the Leinster Badminton website after contact has been made with 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.