

Badminton Ireland Cup Rules

(With effect from January 2026)

- 1 Name Badminton Ireland Cups Competition.
- 2 Organiser Badminton Ireland Events **Working Group**.
- 3 Type Club Team.
- 4 Glossary:
 - Team A team representing a BI Registered Club.
 - Tie Competition between 2 Club teams.
 - Match Best of 3 Games between 2 players in Singles or two pairs in Doubles.
 - Round-robin Competition where all teams in a group play each other.
 - Season: 1st September – 31st May.**

5 Team Eligibility

The Competition shall be open to all eligible Club Teams.

Clubs may only enter 1 team in each category.

With more than 8 teams the top 5 teams shall play for the Cup with the remaining playing in groups for a Division 2, otherwise all teams shall play for the cup.

In the cup and divisions:

With 2 entries a final will be played

With 3 – 5 entries a round-robin will be played.

With 6 teams 2 x 3 team round-robins will be played

With 7 teams a 4 team and a 3 team round-robin will be played.

With 8 teams 2 x 4 team round-robins will be played.

Where there are 2 groups the winner of each group shall play the runner-up of the other group in the semi-finals, the third placed team in each group shall play for 5/6 place and the forth place teams shall play for 7/8 place.

6 Categories

Premier, A, C.

7 Player Eligibility

To be eligible to represent a Club all players must fulfil all of the following requirements:

The Club must be affiliated to BI by January 15th of the current season.

Players may only play for their Primary Club as listed in the membership system on January 15th.

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All players must be a fully paid up registered member of BI with the club by January 15th and be of the correct grade by January 31st of the current season, but only members affiliated with Badminton Ireland as Adult, Adult first time or Juvenile member are eligible.

All players must be of a minimum age of 14 over the full calendar year in which the playing season ends (i.e. minimum age on 1st January of the year in which the playing season ends).

All players under 16 who qualify must be a minimum of Grade D.

Be on a team panel which has been previously checked by Badminton Ireland.

Must have played for the club in a team event against another club in the previous 12 months.

Players must comply with the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping regulations and if required undertake a drug test involving the provision of a urine sample under qualified supervision for subsequent analysis.

8 Constitution of Tie's

- a. Each tie shall consist of 7 matches, one Men's singles, one Women's singles, one Men's Doubles, one Women's Doubles and three Mixed doubles.
- b. The order of play for events shall be level doubles, singles and finally mixed doubles or as directed by the organisers.
- c. Unless otherwise specified, the alternative service laws will be used.

9 Team Regulations

a. Team Panels

Team Panels of up to 6 Male & 6 Female players must be submitted to BI. Additions or substitutions to the panel may be made up to 48 hours before the start of the competition.

At the discretion of the Referee up to 2 additions or substitutions may be made up to the start of the competition to enable a panel -of the minimum team plus 1 substitute- in each gender.

Players may only be submitted on 1 team panel.

When submitting players for panels, clubs must furnish proof that all players have played for the club in a team event involving another club in the last 12 months by way of copies of result sheets.

b. Teams

The Club shall appoint a captain for each team and in default a team shall choose its own captain

Each tie a team shall consist of up to four men and up to four women players from the team panel.

Players may not play on more than 1 team.

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In each tie a player may not play more than once in each type of event and in not more than two events.

Team composition may be changed between ties.

The mixed doubles pairs shall play in order of merit based on player grades using the following criteria:

- a) Both players are of the competition grade.
- b) One of the players is of the competition grade, and by order of grade of the second player.
- c) Players by order of grade.

The team captains shall give a list of their team composition at least 20 minutes before the scheduled time of the tie and no change may be made to these lists except where allowed for substitutions.

Substitution - In the event of a player having to concede a match through injury such that they cannot continue playing the referee may allow a substitute in any subsequent matches in which the incapacitated player should have taken part provided that:

The injury or other incapacity was caused entirely after play in the tie had begun and was not due solely to tiredness or the worsening of an existing ailment.

The substitute selected shall not cause the team to break the rules on the order of merit in doubles or the maximum team members permitted.

The incapacitated player may not participate in any further tie in the Finals.

10 Draw.

Club and Branch separation will apply where possible

In each group:

The draw for the first round ties will be done on a random basis or to facilitate travelling teams.

In the second round the losing team in each group will play the winning team from the other group or the third team

11 Codes of Conduct.

BI Codes of Conduct for Team Management, Coaches and Players will apply.

12 Clothing Regulations.

BI Clothing Regulations will apply.

13 Winners and final placing's.

In a round-robin the winner is determined as followed.

- a. Ranking will be established by the number of ties won.

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- b. If two teams have won the same number of ties the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
- c. If three or more teams have won the same number of ties, ranking will be decided by the total number of matches won.
- d. If this still leaves two teams equal the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
- e. If three or more teams have won the same number of ties and are equal in matches won, ranking will be established by the difference between total games won and total games lost, with greater difference ranked higher.
- f. If this still leaves two teams equal the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
- g. If three or more teams have won the same number of ties and are equal in matches won, and are equal in the difference between total games won and total games lost, ranking will be established by the difference between total points won and total points lost, with greater difference ranked higher.
- h. If this still leaves two teams equal the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
- i. If three or more teams are still equal, then ranking will be established by drawing lots.

14 Penalties

- a. Objections may be submitted by a Club up to 2 weeks following the competition.
- b. Excess players or doubles played not in order of merit:

Where players in excess of the maximum number of permitted players (4 men or 4 women in a tie) are used or where matches are not played in order of merit, the effected match and all matches below in order of merit in the same event shall be conceded by the offending Club to their opponents.

- c. Use of illegal players

The following players are deemed illegal:

Players who are not registered members of BI on January 15th of the year in which the competition is held.

Players who are not correctly graded on January 31st of the year in which the competition is held.

Players who are not on a Club's panel list of players sanctioned by BI.

Players who are graded in a higher class.

Players who are too young to play.

Players who have not played for the club in a team event involving another club.

The use of an illegal player by a team will cause

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The team to be disqualified and all their results voided.

The Club will be fined €100 for each illegal player.

Any illegal player will be banned from playing in all BI and ranking events for a period of 14 months.

Any trophies given to a disqualified team must be returned.

- d. Teams that withdraw after the draw has been published, who fail to appear or do not complete all of their matches shall be penalised by a fine of €200 and in addition all the registered players of such teams shall be banned from playing in any Badminton Ireland Cups competition for a period of 14 months, even for another club. In the case of extenuating circumstances the Organising Committee may reduce or waive this penalty

15 Shuttles

Only Shuttles specified by BI may be used.

The Clubs shall share the provision of shuttles.

16 Governance, Data Protection, Anti-Doping and Safeguarding:

- a) All Governance Policies [Governance Policies \(badmintonireland.com\)](https://badmintonireland.com) must be fully complied with, at all times.
- b) All Data Protection Policies [Data Protection Policies \(badmintonireland.com\)](https://badmintonireland.com) must be fully complied with, at all times.
- c) Anti-Doping Policies [Anti-Doping \(badmintonireland.com\)](https://badmintonireland.com)
- d) Except in Master events a Children's Officer must be available at the event throughout the tournament.
- e) For any team that includes Juvenile players (under 18).
 - i. All team officials i.e. Manager, Coach's, selectors etc. must be fully compliant regarding Vetting and Safeguarding requirements.
 - ii. All Safeguarding Policies [Safeguarding Policies \(badmintonireland.com\)](https://badmintonireland.com) must be fully complied with, at all times.

17 Regulations:

The Badminton Ireland Events Working Group shall have the authority to enforce all regulations concerning these rules, to interpret the rules and to decide for any matters not provided for in the rules which may come to its notice whether or not a formal protest/appeal has been lodged.