

Badminton Ireland Inter-County Finals Rules

(With effect from January 2026)

1 Name: Badminton Ireland Inter-County Finals.

2 Organiser: Badminton Ireland Events **Working Group**.

3 Type: County Association Team.

4 Glossary:

Team A team representing a BI Registered County Association.

Tie Competition between 2 County 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 Finals shall be open to County Teams who are the winners of Branch Inter-county Finals or where either no Final takes place or the winning team is unavailable a Branch may nominate a county team.

With 4 entries semi-finals, Finals and 3-4 place play off will be played. Organisers may run a Round robin format instead if scheduling allows.

With 3 entries a round-robin will be played.

With 2 entries a final will be played.

6 Categories:

Premier, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H.

7 Player Eligibility:

A player shall be qualified to play:

- a) For the county in which they were living at the time of their birth.
- b) For the county in which they are residing providing they have been resided in the county for the calendar year in which season starts.

When a player is changing from one county to another they may continue to play for the first county during the qualifying period.

A player may not play for more than one county in any Inter-County competition in a season.

All players must be a fully paid up registered member of BI 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.

Badminton Ireland Inter-County Finals Rules

(With effect from January 2026)

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

Premier - D	14 years of age.
E, F	16 years of age.
G, H	18 years of age.

In Premier, Grades A, B, C, D all players under 16 who qualify must be a minimum of Grade D.

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 9 matches, one Men's singles, one Women's singles, two Men's Doubles, two 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.

9 Team Regulations:

a) Team Panels

In all categories Team Panels of up to 8 Male & 8 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.

b) Teams

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

In all categories in each tie a team shall consist of up to six men and up to six women players from the team panel.

Players may not play on more than 1 team.

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:

- 1 Both players are of the competition grade.
- 2 One of the players is of the competition grade, and by order of grade of the second player.

Badminton Ireland Inter-County Finals Rules

(With effect from January 2026)

3 Players by order of grade.

The team captains shall give a list of their team composition at least 15 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:

- a) The draw for the first round ties will include the home team with other teams selected on a random basis.
- b) In the second round of a round-robin the losing team in each group will then play 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.
- 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.

Badminton Ireland Inter-County Finals Rules

(With effect from January 2026)

- 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 Shuttles:

Only Shuttles specified by BI may be used.

The Counties shall share the provision of shuttles.

A non-returnable fee will apply, for which each team that participates will receive 2 dozen shuttles.

15 Penalties:

- a) Objections may be submitted by a County Association 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 (6 men or 6 women in a tie) are used or where doubles 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 County 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 county's panel list of Inter-county players sanctioned by BI.

Players who are graded in a higher class.

Players who have played for another County in any Inter-County competition in the season.

Players who are too young to play on Premier to Grade H.

Badminton Ireland Inter-County Finals Rules

(With effect from January 2026)

Players not qualified to play for a County by reason of current or birth residency.

The use of an illegal player by a team will cause

The team to be disqualified and all their results voided.

The County Association 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.

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

- a) All Governance Policies [Governance Policies \(badmintonireland.com\)](https://badmintonireland.com/governance-policies) must be fully complied with, at all times.
- b) All Data Protection Policies [Data Protection Policies \(badmintonireland.com\)](https://badmintonireland.com/data-protection-policies) must be fully complied with, at all times.
- c) Anti-Doping Policies [Anti-Doping \(badmintonireland.com\)](https://badmintonireland.com/anti-doping)
- d) 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/safeguarding-policies) 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.