

Badminton Ireland Interprovincial Rules

(With effect from January 2026)

1 Name Badminton Ireland Interprovincials.

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

3 Type Branch Team.

4 Glossary:

Team Team representing a Branch.

Tie Competition between 2 Branch 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 Premier, Grade A, Masters 1st September – 31st May.

U13, U15, U17 1st January – 31st December.

5 Team Eligibility

The Interprovincial shall be open to Branch Teams.

With 3 or 4 entries a round-robin will be played.

With 2 entries a final will be played.

6 Categories

Premier, A, U13, U15, U17, Masters 40+, Masters 50+, Masters 60+.

7 Player Eligibility

A player shall be qualified to play:

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

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

A player may not play for more than one team in a season.

All players must -by the following dates of the current season- be a fully paid up registered member of BI and be of the correct grade (in Premier and Grade A), but only members affiliated with Badminton Ireland as Adult or Juvenile member are eligible.

Category	Dates	
	Registration	Grade
Premier, Grade A	January 15 th	January 31 st

Badminton Ireland Interprovincial Rules

(With effect from January 2026)

Masters 40+, 50+, 60+		
U13, U15, U17	June 30 th	

In Premier & grade A all players must be at least 14 years of age over the full calendar year in which the season ends and all players under 16 must be minimum of Grade D.

In U13, U15 and U17 all players must be under the required age over the full calendar year in which the season ends (i.e. minimum age on 1st January of the year in which the playing season starts).

In Masters all players must be over the required age over the full calendar year in which the season ends (i.e. be the required age on 1st January of the year in which the playing season ends).

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 Coaching.

Coaching is NOT allowed at any time at U13 level. At events other than U13, coaching is allowed only when the shuttle is not in play, and until the players have taken up position to serve and receive, or during the intervals for a period of 60 seconds when the leading score reaches 11 points, or 120 seconds between games.

9 Constitution of Tie's

In Premier, A, U13, U15, U17, Masters 40+ and Masters 50+

- Each tie shall consist of one Men's singles, one Women's singles, two Men's Doubles, two Women's Doubles and three Mixed doubles.
- The order of play for events shall be level doubles, singles and finally mixed doubles or as directed by the organisers.

In Masters 60+

- Each tie shall consist of one Men's singles, one Women's singles, one Men's Doubles, one Women's Doubles and three Mixed doubles.
- The order of play for events shall be level doubles, singles and finally mixed doubles or as directed by the organisers.

10 Team Regulations

a. Team Panels

In Premier, A, U13, U15, U17, Masters 40+ and Masters 50+ Team Panels of up to 6 Male & 6 Female players must be submitted to BI.

In Masters 60+ Team Panels of up to 5 Male & 5 Female players must be submitted to BI.

Badminton Ireland Interprovincial Rules

(With effect from January 2026)

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 Branch shall appoint a captain for each team and in default a team shall choose its own captain.

In Premier, A, U13, U15, U17, **Masters 40+ and Masters 50+** in each tie a team shall consist of up to five men and up to five women players from the team panel.

In Masters 60+ in 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.

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.

In Premier, A, U13, U15 and U17 the doubles pairs shall play in order of merit (based on National Ranking on the closing date of entries).

In Masters 2nd Men's doubles players **MUST** not play in a higher mixed doubles than any 1st Men's doubles player. Woman can be moved from their doubles placing to suit pairings in the Mixed doubles.

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.

Badminton Ireland Interprovincial Rules

(With effect from January 2026)

- 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 the losing team in each group will play the winning team from the other group or the third team.

12 Codes of Conduct.

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

13 Clothing Regulations.

BI Clothing Regulations will apply.

14 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.
- 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.

15 Entry Fees:

Only Shuttles specified by BI may be used.

The Branches shall share the provision of shuttles.

Badminton Ireland Interprovincial Rules

(With effect from January 2026)

The cost of hall hire, additional shuttles and travelling allowances shall be shared between the competing Branches on the basis of the number of teams entered and not withdrawn 21 days before the start of the competition.

Travelling Branches will receive an allocation of €100 for up to 3 teams or €200 for in excess of 3 teams.

16 Penalties

- a. Objections may be submitted by a Branch 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 (strongest doubles must play 1st Doubles, second strongest must play 2nd Doubles and so on) the effected match and all matches below in order of merit in the same event shall be conceded by the offending Branch to their opponents.

- c. Use of illegal players

The following players are deemed illegal:

Players who are not registered members of BI on the required date of the year in which the competition is held.

Players who are not correctly graded for Premier or A grade on January 31st of the year in which the competition is held.

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

Players who are graded in a higher class.

Players who are too young to play on Premier or A or wrong age to play in the age related events.

Players not qualified to play for a Branch 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 Branch 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.

17 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-policies)

Badminton Ireland Interprovincial Rules

(With effect from January 2026)

- 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.

18 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.