

Inter-County Finals Rules

(With effect from September 2015)

1. NAME

- a. The competition shall be called the 'Badminton Ireland Inter-County Badminton Finals' and shall be held annually in accordance with these Rules, for open age (min age 14) and Masters (men over 40, women over 35).

2. ELIGIBILITY

- a. The Finals shall be open to County Teams who are the winners of Branch Inter-county Finals.
 - (i) With 4 entries semi-finals will be drawn by lot.
 - (ii) With 3 entries a round-robin will be played.
 - (iii) With 2 entries a final will be played.

3. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- a. A player shall be qualified to play:
 - (i) For the county in which they were living at the time of their birth.
 - (ii) For the county in which they are residing providing they have been resided in the county for the calendar year in which season starts.
- b. When a player is changing from one county to another they may continue to play for the first county during the qualifying period.
- c. A player may not play for more than one county in a season.
- d. All players must by January 15th of the current season be a graded and fully paid up registered club member with BI.

4. CONSTITUTION OF TEAMS

- a. Grade Premier - H:
 - (i) A team shall consist of four, five or six men and four, five or six Women.
 - (ii) Each match shall consist of one Men's singles, one Women's singles, two Men's Doubles, two Women's Doubles and three Mixed doubles.
- b. Masters:
 - (i) A team shall consist of four, five or six men and four, five or six Women's.
 - (ii) Each match shall consist of two Men's Doubles, two Women's Doubles and four Mixed doubles.
- c. In All Cases:
 - (i) The County Association shall appoint a captain of its team for each tie and in default a team shall choose its own captain.
 - (ii) A player may not play more than once in each type of event and in not more than two events.
 - (iii) The doubles pairs shall play in order of merit.
 - (iv) The opposing team captains shall exchange a list of their teams before the match starts and no change may be made to these lists except as provided in sub paragraph 4c (v).
 - (v) 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:
 1. 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.
- 2. The substitute selected shall not cause the team to break rules 4c (ii) or 4c (iii).
- 3. The incapacitated player may not participate in any further tie in the round.

5. **NOMINATION AND ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

- (i) Each county must submit on their entry form a list of registered players, and reserves, for each team that it has entered. Only players on the registered list may play for the county. Players may be added to the list at any time throughout the season but may only play after acceptance by BI. Late registered players who are stronger than the other team players will have their registration refused.
- (ii) Players may not play in a team below their grade.

6. **CONSTITUTION OF TIES**

- a. Number of Matches.
 - (i) In grades other than Masters (Vets) each tie shall consist of nine matches, one Men's singles, one Women's singles, two Men's doubles, two Women's doubles, and three Mixed doubles. In the Masters competition each tie will consist of eight matches, two Men's doubles, two Women's doubles, four Mixed doubles.
 - (ii) The order of the events shall be level doubles, singles and finally mixed doubles or as directed by the organisers.
- b. The winner is determined as followed.
 - (i) Ranking will be established by the number of ties won.
 - (ii) If two teams have won the same number of ties the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
 - (iii) If three or more teams have the same number of ties, ranking will be established by the difference between the total ties won and total ties lost with greater difference ranked higher.
 - (iv) If this still leaves two teams equal the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
 - (v) If three or more teams have the same number of ties and are equal in the difference between total ties won and total ties lost, ranking will be established by the difference between total matches won and total matches lost, with greater difference ranked higher.
 - (vi) If this still leaves two teams equal the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
 - (vii) If three or more teams have won the same number of ties and are equal in the difference between total ties won and total ties lost and are also equal in the difference between total matches won and total matches lost, ranking will be established by the difference between total games won and total games lost, with greater difference ranked higher.
 - (viii) If this still leaves two teams equal the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
 - (ix) If three or more teams have won the same number of ties and are equal in the difference between total ties won and total ties lost and are equal in the difference between total matches won and total matches lost 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.

- (x) If this still leaves two teams equal the winner of the tie between them will be ranked higher.
- (xi) If three or more teams are still equal, then ranking will be established by drawing lots.

Players may not play on more than 1 team on the same day.

7. **PENALTIES**

a. Doubles played not in order of merit:

- (i) Where 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 County to their opponents.

b. Illegal Players:

- (i) The following players are deemed illegal for the purpose of playing in an Inter-County Match.
 1. Players who are not registered club members of BI and their Branch on January 15th of the year in which the competition is held.
 2. Players who are not on a county's list of Inter-county players sanctioned by BI.
 3. Players in excess of the maximum number of permitted players (6 men or 6 women in a tie).
 4. Players who are graded in a higher class.
 5. Players who are under 14 on the date of the match.
 6. Players not qualified to play for a County as defined in Rule 8.
 7. If any such players are involved in a match all events (an event being a singles or doubles) played by the illegal players and all matches below in order of merit in the same event shall be conceded by the offending County to their opponents. In addition a penalty of 1 point per event played by illegal players shall also be deducted from the offending County's final score.

8. **SHUTTLES**

- a. The Counties shall share the provision of shuttles.
- b. Only Forza Feather Shuttles may be used.

9. APPENDIX 1

Under Age Players.

In order to be in full compliance with the Code of Ethics for Children in Sport the BUI are applying the following regulations on Counties who have players who are under 18 on County Teams participating in the Inter-County Championships.

- 1 The minimum age to play adult Inter-County will be 14 years of age at midnight on the 31st December of the year in which the season starts.
- 2 Each team must have an appointed person responsible for Under 18 players.
- 3 Under age players and adults should not use the showers/changing rooms at the same time. At no time should an adult and underage player be on their own in the showers/changing rooms.
- 4 When travelling to matches, care must be taken to ensure that one underage player does not travel in a car with all adults unless one of the adults is the player's parent.
- 5 If overnight stays are involved, care must be taken as regards who shares rooms, underage players must not share with adults unless the adult is the players parent, this may involve having to book single rooms for underage players or arranging for them to share with underage players of the same sex from some of the opposing teams.
- 6 Parents should sign a consent form to allow underage players to participate in adult Inter-County Competition.
- 7 Parents should sign a consent form to allow underage players to be photographed individually or as part of a group.
- 8 Underage players aged 14/15 on the day of a match may play a maximum of 4x3 set matches on any one day.
- 9 Underage players aged 16/17 on the day of a match may play a maximum of 6x3 set matches on any one day.
- 10 Rest and Recovery:
 - a. Underage players must be allowed a minimum of 30 minutes break between finishing one event and starting another event.
 - b. Underage players must be allowed a minimum of 60 minutes break having played two consecutive events with the minimum of 30 minutes break between the events.
 - c. If however the break between the first and second events was 45 minutes or longer, the minimum one hour break would then apply after having finished three events.
 - d. Score Sheets should show the starting and finishing time of all events involving underage players.