

Introduction

The Badminton Union of Ireland was founded in 1899, and incorporated in 2006, changing its name to Badminton Ireland. In 1934 Badminton Ireland was one of nine founding members of the International Badminton Federation (IBF), now known as the Badminton World Federation (BWF). Badminton Ireland is also a member of Badminton Europe, the Olympic Federation of Ireland, Paralympics Ireland and the Federation of Irish Sport. Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Badminton Ireland had circa 13,000 members across our four provincial branches. We operate across the breadth of the country through our circa 365 affiliated clubs.

Policy Development

On working towards addressing abuse in Badminton, we have placed an enormous emphasis on policy development and volunteer training. In working with Sport Ireland, Badminton Ireland has a Code of Conduct which highlights the behaviours expected from players, parents, committees, officials, and coaches. This policy was created in line with the support provided through the Sport Ireland Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in sport and is supported through our own Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy. Badminton Ireland has also signed off on a newly developed Complaints & Disciplinary Policy which will further deter stakeholders from engaging in unsportsmanlike behaviour, as well as supporting our volunteers in creating a safe and enjoyable environment through which the sport of Badminton can be played.

Training

Our Volunteer Training programmes have enabled us to reach out to volunteers at the grassroots. We have incorporated an E-Learning Training system to our membership services where we have a Safeguarding Training in place for parents to access, which provides key information on all Badminton Ireland Safeguarding Policies. 247 Parents and Volunteers have completed our E-Learning Modules in relation to Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Throughout the pandemic, Badminton Ireland has delivered 219 volunteers Safeguarding Workshops across the various levels of Sport Ireland's Safeguarding Level 1, 2 and 3 workshops. We have been able to do so through online delivery train volunteers across the island of Ireland with these

opportunities.

We have also actively developed our capacity in this area through training additional tutors which will further build our capacity in delivering further opportunities to build this training programme going forward into the 2022/2023 season.

Abuse/Allegations

Badminton Ireland have been very fortunate that we have received relatively few complaints regarding abuse towards our members.

Please see below a breakdown of our complaints in the previous 3 years:

Year	Type of Complaints / Disputes
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Committee Disputes • 2 x Juvenile Team Selection Disputes • 3 x Internal club dispute between players • 1 x Poor Coaching Practice
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Committee Disputes • 1 x Competition Regulations Dispute • 1 x Affiliation Dispute • 1 x Covid-19 Regulations Dispute
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x Covid-19 Regulations Dispute • 1 x Social Media dispute regarding staff • 2 x Governance Disputes

All the above disputes or complaints were resolved through informal dispute resolution methods at the first point of contact. Badminton Ireland did not require hosting any complaint or disciplinary hearings throughout this period.

We did identify that we had experienced several disputes within our committee structures which we have aimed to address through developing training for volunteers in this area. We have developed E-Learning Trainings in how to effectively manage conflict in your committee and an introductory



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Governance training for new committee members.