



PFI
Padel Federation
of Ireland



PFI NEWSLETTER

A Message from our President

Dear Members, Players, Coaches, Partners, and Sponsors,

Padel in Ireland has experienced remarkable growth due to the collective efforts of all involved—from our volunteers, players, staff, and coaches to the committed clubs across the country. We sincerely appreciate the support of our partners, including Dublin City Council (DCC), Léargas and our sponsors, CUPRA Ireland and Rockwell Financial Management. Additionally, the World Governing Body of Padel (FIP), under the leadership of President Luigi Carraro, has made significant contributions to the sport's advancement on a global level. With the introduction of new initiatives, tournaments, and development and coaching programmes, we continue to build a strong foundation for a vibrant padel community here in Ireland.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone participating in our shared journey to develop the sport as it grows. The way we shape and mold the sport today will have a lasting impact on future generations of padel players.

This newsletter highlights some of our key achievements in 2024 and sets the stage for an exciting 2025.

Best Regards,

Naomi Nicholl
President of the Padel Federation of Ireland

World Governing Body of Padel Recognition for Ireland since 2019 2025 Renewal



INTERNATIONAL PADEL FEDERATION

MAISON DU SPORT INTERNATIONAL
Av. de Rhodanie 54, 1007 Lausanne - Switzerland
www.padelfip.com

Lausanne, 20 January 2025

To whom it may concern,

This is to certify that the Padel Federation of Ireland (PFI) is the sole governing body for Padel in Ireland, recognised by, and affiliated to, the World Governing Body of Padel (FIP).

Naomi Nicholl is the current president of the PFI.

Donatella Del Gaudio

Director of Institutional Relations



Ireland at the FIP General Assembly in Doha 2024

The Padel Federation of Ireland proudly represented Ireland at the FIP General Assembly in Doha, held during the 2024 FIP World Padel Championships. This gathering brought together the affiliated national federations who represent the ever-growing community of padel players around the world.



Luigi Carraro, president of World Governing Body of Padel (FIP), and Naomi Nicholl, president of PFI

The **34th FIP General Assembly** saw the unanimous re-election of Luigi Carraro as President of FIP. Padel is currently played in 150 countries and has **87 affiliated member federations**. There are an estimated **30 million** players worldwide. The sport features two major world circuits: **Premier Padel** and the **FIP CUPRA Tour**. A key objective is to have padel included in the Brisbane Olympics in 2032.

National Team Recruitment

While in Doha, the PFI launched its National Padel Team registration for 2025, inviting players across Juniors, Absolutes, and Veterans categories to compete for Ireland in 2025. We are currently requesting that players register their interest and we will announce trials and key dates in the near future. Please ask your Club Rep for more details!





PADEL EUROPE

During the FIP European Padel Championships, representatives from 31 countries came together to establish 'Padel Europe,' a new continental entity aimed at further strengthening our sport both on a continental and global scale. Ireland is proud to be a founding member, and we will continue to collaborate closely with our fellow member federations to advance and develop padel in emerging padel nations.





Ireland at the 2024 FIP Senior World Padel Championships

Ireland celebrated a historic moment in April 2024 by competing at the **FIP Senior World Padel Championships** in Alicante, Spain.

This was the first time in history that Ireland competed at World level in the main draw of a padel world championships. Our team, comprising of 38 players and 3 coaches, participated across multiple age categories (+35 to +55) and demonstrated a resilience and sportsmanship that we aim to instill in our juniors.

The PFI team efforts at the World Championships, supported by Cupra Ireland, underscores the sport's rapid development in Ireland. This milestone reflects Ireland's increasing presence on the international padel stage and its commitment to fostering the sport.

Dates for the **2025 FIP Senior European Championships** will be released shortly and we invite all players and clubs to sign up. Please see details below. **Clubs are welcome to host national trials and/or training events.**



IRISH PADEL TOUR



2024 saw an incredible increase in the number of clubs, locations and players participating and hosting the **National Ranking tournament** around Ireland. Almost 200 players participated in the **All-Ireland Championships in September**, during which the **PFI AGM** also took place.



New features 2025

This year, we are delighted to announce that the Irish Padel Tour introduces a new format with **10 Challengers, 4 Majors, and a Final Master**, which will be the most exclusive national event where the top-ranked players will compete to crown the season's champions. The Majors will offer higher ranking points and bigger prizes compared to the Challengers.

Additionally, this year we are launching a **new website and mobile app**, where players can register for tournaments, check the ranking, view live match results, and stay updated with all tour information.

With these updates, the Irish Padel Tour promises to be much **more exciting and dynamic**, offering an enhanced experience for both players and fans. We look forward to announcing exciting new sponsors for the tour!

Rockwell National Junior Padel Development Programme *Coaching-the-Coaches*



In order to progress as a padel playing nation we need to **develop our juniors**, and in order to this effectively we need to learn from, and work with, the experts.

After months of collaboration with the **FIP Development team**, we designed a pilot programme aimed at developing junior players in emerging padel countries. We welcomed the experts over from Spain to commence the training to get our Rockwell National Junior Development programme off to the very best start.

20 coaches from around Ireland joined us over a weekend in July for the initial stage of the programme. These coaches will continue to receive mentorship as they help role out the programme Nationwide.

Nominated by the Spanish Federation (FEP), **PadelCV** work with, and mentor, our coaches to help design and deliver the best **Junior National Development programme** for Ireland. PadelCV has worked with juniors and trained the best players in Spain over the past 25+ years, we are delighted to have them on board to work with the PFI and provide our coaches with the best training.



Rockwell National Junior Programme

- **Programme Launch:** Kicked off in July with expert coaches from Spain mentoring Irish coaches and juniors.
- **Workshops and Training:** We are hosting multiple workshops across the country to engage young players. These sessions provide further training opportunities, please enquire in your local club for more details..
- Thanks to **Rockwell Financial**, the programme is subsidised, making it accessible to all affiliated clubs and schools.
- **Future Plans:** The success of 2024 ensures the programme is now expanding further in 2025, with more workshops and club participation. Next stops Wicklow, Cork, Belfast and Limerick!! For interested schools and clubs please email communications@padelfederation.ie



FISU grants official recognition to FIP



The International University Sports Federation (FISU) is pleased to announce the official recognition of Padel as a FISU-recognised sport, marking a significant step in the expansion of university sports worldwide. This recognition follows a comprehensive evaluation of the International Padel Federation's (FIP) submission, which demonstrated the sport's rapid growth, global appeal, and alignment with FISU's mission of fostering innovation, inclusivity, and excellence in university sports.

"This recognition underscores FISU's commitment to embracing emerging sports that align with our vision", said Matthias Remund, FISU Secretary General/CEO. "Padel's dynamic and inclusive nature makes it an ideal addition to the FISU ecosystem, providing new opportunities for student-athletes to compete and develop on an international stage".

The recognition of Padel within FISU paves the way for enhanced collaboration between FISU and FIP. As a next step, both organisations will work towards formalising their cooperation through a memorandum of understanding, which will outline joint initiatives and development opportunities for university Padel competitions.

"This is an extraordinary achievement for FIP and all those who love padel", said Luigi Carraro, the President of the International Padel Federation (FIP). "This recognition reflects our commitment, and that of our National Federations, towards younger generations in terms of sporting results, both at competitive and amateur level, as well as fundamental principles such as inclusion, socialisation and cultural exchange. Working with FISU by featuring padel in the university competitions will be a primary goal and a specific effort that FIP and its member federations will make with great enthusiasm and passion".

FISU looks forward to fostering the growth of Padel within university sports and working closely with FIP to further integrate the sport into the international university sports movement.

Women and Girls in Sport Initiative

This was developed in 2022 as an initiative designed to encourage women and girls to engage in competitive padel. All clubs around Ireland are invited to sign up to this initiative rolling out in 2025!

Our **Activities** include **PFI funded courses** held in **Moirá, Dublin and Cavan** and the initiative has already successfully delivered players competing at the European level.

This initiative will continue into 2025, targeting greater participation and success stories. We also aim to address and target the **younger teen player** cohort who traditionally hit a drop out from organised sport. Club reps should contact Glenda Brady at womeninsport@padelfederation.ie and/or communications@padelfederation.ie to get more information and to join the calendar.

Disability Inclusion Programmes



We introduced the embedding of the Disability Inclusion module into the PFI certification course. This means that all PFI recognised coaches will be required to complete this module in order to be a certified padel coach. Funded by the PFI, this course was held a number of times throughout 2024.

We continue to Collaborate with Active Disability and Eimear Breathnach, President of Paralympics Ireland, to deliver these essential and comprehensive workshops, available to all clubs and coaches .

The new Wheelchair/Adapted Padel and coaching programme is being rolled out by FIP. For athletes interested in wheelchair padel please contact us at info@padelfederation.ie



Padel Forward

International Collaboration

The hugely successful programme, developed by the PFI and funded by Erasmus Plus, collaborated with the Spanish Padel Federation (FEP) to offer paid internships to Irish padel coaches and staff in Spain.

This unique opportunity provided hands-on experience and knowledge transfer from leading padel experts. We were delighted to send eight members of our team, from clubs around Ireland, to travel during 2024 around Spain.

This programme has strengthened the skills and expertise of our Irish padel professionals, aiming to enhance the quality of the sport across the country. We will be providing new and existing clubs with guidelines based on our collective learnings and experiences. We will send updates to all clubs soon!



Padel Coach Ireland

Official Coaching certification

- **Padel Coach Ireland** runs the only **FIP** affiliated official **Padel Certification Course** for Padel in Ireland.
- The Padel Federation works with FIP and the **International Coaches Association** to provide a streamlined coaching pathway for all coaches.
- 2024 saw four successful coaching courses in Dublin and Cork throughout the year.
- 2025 will see a number of courses being held around the country. For details contact info@padelfederation.ie or go to www.padelcoachireland.ie

New Courts

2024, like 2023, was another great year for new courts and new clubs opening around Ireland. The growing number of facilities is a testament to the growing demand for padel and serves as a hub for both recreational and competitive players. We continue to welcome all private and public facilities to link in with the PFI to see how we can support you and provide opportunities for your players, members and coaches. **We are currently in the process of compiling data on the growth of padel in Ireland, this will be provided to the FIP R&D Department for the World Padel Report. The report on Ireland will be available on our website when complete.**



At the opening of the new courts in Cork with the PadelTennisIreland team!

Government Grants

A number of clubs and facilities secured substantial funding to support the creation of new padel clubs and courts nationwide. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to fostering the sport's development in Ireland. We will continue to support clubs in their applications for sponsorship, local funding and Sports Capital Grants



Irish Examiner

Capital grants reflect the rise of padel.

The growing popularity of padel in Ireland is reflected in the grant allocations announced by government today.



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Dublin City Council (DCC) can be regarded as one of the pioneers of padel in Ireland, supporting the sport and the Federation long before its current remarkable growth. This collaboration has been crucial in developing the sport, enabling the testing and national rollout of various programmes, which has fostered growth from grassroots to high-performance levels. Due to this partnership, padel has expanded at the community level, with significant community and grassroots initiatives playing a central role as the sport takes off.

SPONSORS



We deeply appreciate CUPRA's support as a sponsor of the federation, the national team, and the Majors of the Irish Padel Tour. Your dedication drives the growth and success of our sport.

Thank you for helping us reach new heights together!



We are sincerely grateful to Rockwell for supporting the federation and, most importantly, for sponsoring the National Junior Development Programme. Your commitment is shaping the future of our sport and inspiring the next generation of athletes.

Thank you for making a difference!

FIP COURSES



Clean Sport Education

This course, delivered by the International Padel Federation (FIP), highlights its commitment to promoting fair play and sporting integrity. The webinar covered essential topics such as anti-doping policies, the safe use of medications, the health risks of doping, and the importance of ensuring transparency in sports.

The Padel Federation of Ireland (PFI) supported this initiative, reinforcing its dedication to fostering a clean, ethical, and fair environment for all athletes. The recording of the webinar will be sent to players who missed the webinar.

FIP Referee Course

The International Padel Federation (FIP) has launched the International Padel Referee Level 1 Course to standardise refereeing globally and support the sport's growth. The course combines online classes, practical training, and covers FIP rules and regulations, with successful participants earning a diploma to officiate internationally. The Padel Federation of Ireland (PFI) supports this initiative to elevate Irish refereeing standards and strengthen Ireland's role in the global padel community. Some of our experienced PFI coaches have now successfully completed the certified course and are joining the community of internationally accredited Padel Referees. Clubs and coaches can nominate applicants through the PFI for participation in the FIP courses.

Looking ahead to 2025

This year, the Padel Federation of Ireland is set to deliver an exciting range of initiatives aimed at furthering the growth of padel across Ireland.

FIP Euro Padel Cup



Ireland will start getting ready for the European Padel Championships now called the **FIP Euro Padel Cup**!

With **40 European countries** taking part, the dates have just been confirmed for **July 7th -13th**! Location is still TBC.

We are thrilled to confirm that there is a **new formula** specifically designed to ensure equal, fair and exciting competition.



A NEW FORMULA

To achieve these objectives, competitions are divided into 3 parts:

Phase 1: 24 European Teams. This is the qualifying phase open to all National Teams not participating in the Phase 2 and Final 8. Teams will be grouped based on the number of entries, and the format will be designed to ensure equal, fair and exciting competition.

Phase 2: This stage will include the 12 Teams ranked 5th to 16th plus 4 Teams from Phase 1. They will be divided into 4 groups of 4, with the best Team from each group advancing to FINAL 8.

FINAL 8: This is the top-tier competition, featuring the 4 highest-ranked teams with direct qualification, plus 4 teams advancing from Phase 2.

Player registration to participate in the National team:

<https://forms.gle/QyjVosuz533dn9BP7>

Looking ahead to 2025



National Junior Development Programme

This programme is focused on nurturing young talent. With training and workshops led by expert coaches, it will continue to grow in 2025, reaching more schools and young players across Ireland.

Schools and clubs interested in hosting a National Junior Development Programme Workshop: can go to juniors@padelfederation.ie

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDBCp2EdCXeFza0Vdzy1NnE_XSTYyfHvGqocW9gNQ2Ad3p3A/viewform



Official Trials for the National Padel Team

The National Team Trials for the European and World Championships are a crucial event where the top players from Ireland will be selected to represent the country on the international stage.

We will be providing all clubs with details on how players can apply!

Looking ahead to 2025

Padel Coaching Courses



These courses are designed to develop and enhance the skills of coaches across Ireland. By providing specialised training and certification, in conjunction with FIP, we aim to improve the overall coaching standards and pathways in the country, ensuring that the next generation of players receives expert guidance and instruction.

For upcoming coaching courses:
info@padelfederation.ie

Women in Sport Programme



This programme promotes padel as an inclusive sport for girls and women aged 13-25. With free courses in key locations like Moira, Dublin, and Cavan, it has previously helped develop players competing at the European level, with plans for further expansion in 2025.

We were recently invited to showcase padel at the **Sport Ireland Her Moves** Hub in the RDS for the **I Wish STEM** event for girls. We will have more news on upcoming events in the coming weeks!

To host a PFI funded Women in Sport training programme in your club contact;
communications@padelfederation.ie

We welcome and encourage **all clubs from public, private, hotels, leisure parks, public parks, tennis, squash, multi-sport etc.** to affiliate to the PFI and avail of our ongoing support and provide the best opportunities for your members and users to grow and advance.

Availing of all of the initiatives and programmes will **help your club, coaches and players** get the best **development opportunities** both from us as the National Federation and from the World Governing Body of Padel.

Please see below the details for some of the available PFI courses, resources and contact details:

Affiliation form for new club:

- **Email:** communications@padelfederation.ie
- **Form:**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rNzLP27m9PpePObG_OAnsHOLyvgSc87lvpAoWRNhXYY/edit

Affiliation form for club renewal 2025:

- **Email:** communications@padelfederation.ie
- **Form:**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rNzLP27m9PpePObG_OAnsHOLyvgSc87lvpAoWRNhXYY/edit

To Register a Club Rep for 2025:

- **Email:** communications@padelfederation.ie
- **Form:** See club affiliation forms above

Garda vetting:

- **Email:** vetting@padelfederation.ie

Registration for upcoming Safeguarding 1 course:

- **Date:** March 3rd 6-9pm
- **Form:** <https://forms.gle/EJkcVtcKPipgDCzD6>



PFI
Padel Federation
of Ireland



Information for new clubs continued.

For further information on the **PFI Certified Coaching Course**, please go to:

- Email: info@padelfederation.ie

PFI Coach registration for Disability Inclusion Workshop:

- Form: <https://forms.gle/L8pAsmPf2Mi99dpi7>

National Team

The Padel Federation of Ireland is the only National Governing Body (NGB) appointed by the World Governing Body. On behalf of FIP we select and send the official National Team for Ireland and organise the National Ranking Circuit in Ireland. Please advise your players hoping to participate in official championships, trials and national ranking circuit and for any queries to go to nationalteam@padelfederation.ie or info@irishpadeltour.ie

PFI player license application (required for all national and International Competitions and Championships): www.padelfederation.ie

Conclusion

As we look forward to our journey together we will continue to keep you updated on all of the exciting opportunities for padel in Ireland and around the world! This year we will be running features on clubs around Ireland and their initiatives and programmes. We are currently compiling up-to-date data on padel in Ireland so our team will continue to liaise with all new and existing padel clubs and facilities. We will soon be advertising coaching vacancies to work with our teams and help get the best for our players. We continue to welcome volunteers, sponsors and partners to help continue this exceptional journey.