



# Draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew LAP Submission - Report

Who are you:	Group
Name:	Wicklow Squash Club
Reference:	DWTRLAP-122833
Submission Made	November 19, 2024 1:27 PM

## Topic

Overall Vision and Strategy of LAP

## Submission

Objective:

To establish Wicklow Squash Club as a recreational and sporting facility that promotes fitness, community engagement, and social cohesion within the Wicklow Town area.

## Squash Ireland Overview

Squash Ireland (SI) is one of the fastest-developing National Governing Bodies in Irish sport, with an increase in staff from two to eight within a 12-month period. SI has seen one of the largest percentage increases in Sport Ireland core funding of any established National Governing Body for 2024 and was shortlisted for National Governing Body of the Year alongside the IRFU, Basketball Ireland, and Canoeing Ireland.

SI membership is up 23% vs last year. Tournament entries have increased by 25% compared to last season, and the number of affiliated clubs has grown from 50 to 60. The largest growth is seen in junior and female players.

Several major squash facilities are planned, including a 9-court Squash Ireland National Centre adjacent to the National Basketball Arena, a 6-8 court squash centre at Westwood, Leopardstown, and large regional squash centres in Athlone and Ballina to name a few. We are working with several local clubs to refurbish their existing courts and add new ones to cater to growing demand.

## Performance

Squash is an Olympic sport and will feature at the LA 2028 Olympics. Squash Ireland is appointing a high-performance head coach to chart our path to Olympic qualification and develop the next generation of talent. We are identifying regional 'centres of excellence' to act as hubs for player development.

SI has a proud history of competing at the highest levels of the game globally, with Madeline Perry reaching #3 in the world in 2011, Derek Ryan reaching #7 in 1999, and many others achieving top-25 world rankings. This past success has instilled a belief that our current and future players are capable of qualifying for the Olympic Games and competing at the highest level. The spectacle of the Paris Olympic Games has demonstrated the positive impact that Olympic inclusion can have on squash in terms of participation and visibility, and we must be prepared to meet this growing demand.

## Participation

SI are also developing a structured schools programme, which will include coaching and culminate in a fun schools tournament. This kicked off last season with 33 primary school teachers completing a Department of Education approved course titled 'Squash – Supporting Children's Physical Literacy Journey in Primary School'. Within the past 9 months, Squash Ireland has appointed three new Development Officers focused on club development and delivering participation programmes to target groups including juniors, women & girls and disadvantaged communities.

As an example of our progressive approach, we are launching an innovative new format called 'HIIT Squash,' which combines fitness and squash, targeting beginners, women, and those looking to maximize the use of their time.

---

## Background and Justification

- **Community Need:** Recreational facilities are vital to improving quality of life and providing safe spaces for physical activities, especially for youth and adults alike.
- **Health Benefits:** Squash promotes cardiovascular fitness, muscular endurance, and stress relief.
- **Inclusivity:** Squash caters to people of all ages and fitness levels, making it an ideal community activity.
- **Economic Impact:** The club can attract tournaments and memberships, generating revenue and boosting local businesses.

## Project Scope

- **Facility Type:** A squash facility with 3 indoor courts, and shared locker rooms, showers, and communal area with other clubs eg local boxing club, athletics club and basketball club for example.
- **Location:** Utilize unused appropriately zoned land or repurpose an existing building.

Please bear in mind that none of the Active Open Space (AOS) that was allocated in the last LAP was developed as sports facilities, the additional amount that Wicklow County Council have allocated will not be sufficient to provide amenities for the current population / houses built or planned population / houses to be built in the future in the Wicklow Town area.

- We respectfully request that SLO6, the area zoned residential between the Rocky road and Hawkstown road be changed to AOS, to ensure there is a large parcel of land available for proper sports development now and into the future of the town. This would in some way compensate for the 37 acres in Tinakilly that were never developed as AOS. This would also have huge potential to develop multiple sporting facilities for our future generations.

SLO6 would have a number of access points and with the development of the Rocky Road to the N11, giving the possibility of teenagers / children to walk from local schools while also allowing traveling teams to Wicklow for matches have easy access.

- **Target Audience:** Everybody. The goal is to emphasise and foster openness, diversity and inclusivity, allowing equal access to resources and opportunity. We include special programs for schools, teenage girls, teenage boys, senior citizens, and local clubs.
- **Sustainability:** Solar panels for energy efficiency, recycled materials in construction, and water-saving fixtures.

## Program Development

- o Weekly coaching sessions for beginners and advanced players of all ages and backgrounds.
- o Organize tournaments, leagues, and school outreach programs. Inclusion in divisions 1 to 7 Leinster league, catring for all levels of skill.

## Community and Economic Benefits

- **Health and Well-being:** Provides an affordable fitness option for residents.
- **Youth Engagement:** Keeps young people active and away from anti-social behaviour.
- **Job Creation:** Construction, facility management, and coaching roles.
- **Revenue Generation:** Potential to become a self-sustaining project over time. i.e. Membership Fees, Pay-per-Use, Sponsorships and Partnerships, Event Hosting

## Conclusion

Wicklow Squash Club will be a valuable addition to our community, offering recreational, social, and economic benefits. With council support, we can create a sustainable facility that serves the community for years to come. We request the council's approval to initiate this project.

## Topic

### Economic Development

### Submission

#### Objective:

To establish Wicklow Squash Club as a recreational and sporting facility that promotes fitness, community engagement, and social cohesion within the Wicklow Town area.

- Economic Impact: The club can attract tournaments and memberships, generating revenue and boosting local businesses.

#### Program Development

- o Weekly coaching sessions for beginners and advanced players of all ages and backgrounds.
- o Organize tournaments, leagues, and school outreach programs. Inclusion in divisions 1 to 7 Leinster league, catering for all levels of skill.

#### Community and Economic Benefits

- Health and Well-being: Provides an affordable fitness option for residents.
- Youth Engagement: Keeps young people active and away from anti-social behaviour.
- Job Creation: Construction, facility management, and coaching roles.
- Revenue Generation: Potential to become a self-sustaining project over time. i.e. Membership Fees, Pay-per-Use, Sponsorships and Partnerships, Event Hosting

## Topic

Community Development (inc. sports facilities & schools, etc)

### Submission

#### Objective:

To establish Wicklow Squash Club as a recreational and sporting facility that promotes fitness, community engagement, and social cohesion within the Wicklow Town area.

#### Squash Ireland Overview

Squash Ireland (SI) is one of the fastest-developing National Governing Bodies in Irish sport, with an increase in staff from two to eight within a 12-month period. SI has seen one of the largest percentage increases in Sport Ireland core funding of any established National Governing Body for 2024 and was shortlisted for National Governing Body of the Year alongside the IRFU, Basketball Ireland, and Canoeing Ireland.

SI membership is up 23% vs last year. Tournament entries have increased by 25% compared to last season, and the number of affiliated clubs has grown from 50 to 60. The largest growth is seen in junior and female players.

Several major squash facilities are planned, including a 9-court Squash Ireland National Centre adjacent to the National Basketball Arena, a 6-8 court squash centre at Westwood, Leopardstown, and large regional squash centres in Athlone and Ballina to name a few. We are working with several local clubs to refurbish their existing courts and add new ones to cater to growing demand.

#### Performance

Squash is an Olympic sport and will feature at the LA 2028 Olympics. Squash Ireland is appointing a high-performance head coach to chart our path to Olympic qualification and develop the next generation of talent. We are identifying regional 'centres of excellence' to act as hubs for player development.

SI has a proud history of competing at the highest levels of the game globally, with Madeline Perry reaching #3 in the world in 2011, Derek Ryan reaching #7 in 1999, and many others achieving top-25 world rankings. This past success has instilled a belief that our current and future players are capable of qualifying for the Olympic Games and competing at the highest level. The spectacle of the Paris Olympic Games has demonstrated the positive impact that Olympic inclusion can have on squash in terms of participation and visibility, and we must be prepared to meet this growing demand.

#### Participation

SI are also developing a structured schools programme, which will include coaching and culminate in a fun schools tournament. This kicked off last season with 33 primary school teachers completing a Department of Education approved course titled 'Squash – Supporting Children's Physical Literacy Journey in Primary School'. Within the past 9 months, Squash Ireland has appointed three new Development Officers focused on club development and delivering participation programmes to target groups including juniors, women & girls and

disadvantaged communities.

As an example of our progressive approach, we are launching an innovative new format called 'HIIT Squash,' which combines fitness and squash, targeting beginners, women, and those looking to maximize the use of their time.

---

### Background and Justification

- **Community Need:** Recreational facilities are vital to improving quality of life and providing safe spaces for physical activities, especially for youth and adults alike.
- **Health Benefits:** Squash promotes cardiovascular fitness, muscular endurance, and stress relief.
- **Inclusivity:** Squash caters to people of all ages and fitness levels, making it an ideal community activity.
- **Economic Impact:** The club can attract tournaments and memberships, generating revenue and boosting local businesses.

### Project Scope

- **Facility Type:** A squash facility with 3 indoor courts, and shared locker rooms, showers, and communal area with other clubs eg local boxing club, athletics club and basketball club for example.
- **Location:** Utilize unused appropriately zoned land or repurpose an existing building.

Please bear in mind that none of the Active Open Space (AOS) that was allocated in the last LAP was developed as sports facilities, the additional amount that Wicklow County Council have allocated will not be sufficient to provide amenities for the current population / houses built or planned population / houses to be built in the future in the Wicklow Town area.

- We respectfully request that SLO6, the area zoned residential between the Rocky road and Hawkstown road be changed to AOS, to ensure there is a large parcel of land available for proper sports development now and into the future of the town. This would in some way compensate for the 37 acres in Tinakilly that were never developed as AOS. This would also have huge potential to develop multiple sporting facilities for our future generations.

SLO6 would have a number of access points and with the development of the Rocky Road to the N11, giving the possibility of teenagers / children to walk from local schools while also allowing traveling teams to Wicklow for matches have easy access.

- **Target Audience:** Everybody. The goal is to emphasise and foster openness, diversity and inclusivity, allowing equal access to resources and opportunity. We include special programs for schools, teenage girls, teenage boys, senior citizens, and local clubs.
- **Sustainability:** Solar panels for energy efficiency, recycled materials in construction, and water-saving fixtures.

### Program Development

- o Weekly coaching sessions for beginners and advanced players of all ages and backgrounds.
- o Organize tournaments, leagues, and school outreach programs. Inclusion in divisions 1 to 7 Leinster league, catering for all levels of skill.

### Community and Economic Benefits

- **Health and Well-being:** Provides an affordable fitness option for residents.
- **Youth Engagement:** Keeps young people active and away from anti-social behaviour.
- **Job Creation:** Construction, facility management, and coaching roles.
- **Revenue Generation:** Potential to become a self-sustaining project over time. i.e. Membership Fees, Pay-per-Use, Sponsorships and Partnerships, Event Hosting

### Conclusion

Wicklow Squash Club will be a valuable addition to our community, offering recreational, social, and economic benefits. With council support, we can create a sustainable facility that serves the community for years to come. We request the council's approval to initiate this project.

## Topic

### Land Use Zoning Map

#### Submission

##### Objective:

To establish Wicklow Squash Club as a recreational and sporting facility that promotes fitness, community engagement, and social cohesion within the Wicklow Town area.

- Facility Type: A squash facility with 3 indoor courts, and shared locker rooms, showers, and communal area with other clubs eg local boxing club, athletics club and basketball club for example.

- Location: Utilize unused appropriately zoned land or repurpose an existing building.

Please bear in mind that none of the Active Open Space (AOS) that was allocated in the last LAP was developed as sports facilities, the additional amount that Wicklow County Council have allocated will not be sufficient to provide amenities for the current population / houses built or planned population / houses to be built in the future in the Wicklow Town area.

- We respectfully request that SLO6, the area zoned residential between the Rocky road and Hawkstown road be changed to AOS, to ensure there is a large parcel of land available for proper sports development now and into the future of the town. This would in some way compensate for the 37 acres in Tinakilly that were never developed as AOS. This would also have huge potential to develop multiple sporting facilities for our future generations.

SLO6 would have a number of access points and with the development of the Rocky Road to the N11, giving the possibility of teenagers / children to walk from local schools while also allowing traveling teams to Wicklow for matches have easy access.

## Map



### Site Description:

Easy access points and with the development of the Rocky Road to the N11, giving the possibility of teenagers / children to walk from local schools while also allowing traveling teams to Wicklow for matches to have easy access.

---

