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## Dierdre 'walks over' to her first Allianz Junior Badminton Championship (AJBC) 2024

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**Kota Kinabalu, 7 August 2024** – Deirdre Gianna Michael clinched her first Allianz Junior Badminton Championship (AJBC) 2024 U-15 Girls' Singles title in an interesting fashion – highlighted by walkovers on not only her opponents but also to her own partner!

Firstly, the 14-year-old suffered a walkover when her partner in the quarterfinals of the U-15 Girls' Doubles, Jessie Aegidius did not show up due to personal reasons. Then the following day, Deirdre was awarded a walkover in the semifinals of the U-15 Girls' Singles when her opponent Clarylyn Ashebelle did not turn up for their match.

All these side 'antics' did not deter her from winning the Girls' U-15 Singles title, beating Siti Nur Hanisah in the final. "It was quite a roller coaster tournament for me. I was really disappointed when I could not play the doubles quarterfinals, as I know that we could have at least made the final but she had some personal issues to attend to," said the Form Two student of SMK Tamparuli.

"However, getting a walkover in the singles semifinals meant that I'm at my maximum strength in the final. So, it sort of balanced things out for me," she added.

Jack Yak from Yu Yuan Secondary School and Low Kai Ling from Kuen Cheng High School emerged as big winners in their respective categories for AJBC Qualifying Round 6 which was held in Kota Kinabalu. Together with schoolmate Kerwin Soh, Jack bagged both Boys' U-15 singles and doubles while Kai Ling achieved a similar result in the Girls' U-13 category.

Last year, over 2,500 players participated in AJBC and entries are expected to rise to 3,000 this year in the 10 Qualifying Rounds. The remaining Qualifying Rounds will be staged in various venues around the country such Kluang, Pengkalan Chepa, Bukit Beruang and Kuantan.

The AJBC Grand Finals, featuring Under-13 and Under-15 finalists from all the Qualifying Rounds, will take place at Stadium Juara in Bukit Kiara from 20–25 November. Each round will see 24 players qualifying for the finals. The Under-11 players will not advance to the AJBC Grand Finals.

As in previous years, players participating in the AJBC Qualifying Rounds do not have to pay any entrance fees. The top three winners in the Qualifying Rounds, for all age categories, will earn RM500, RM300 and RM150 (singles) and RM600, RM400 and RM200 (doubles). Players finishing

in the top three at the Grand Finals will pocket RM1,000, RM600 and RM300 (singles) and RM1,200, RM800 and RM400 (doubles).

For more information and those who are keen to participate in AJBC, please visit [www.allianz.com.my/ajbc](http://www.allianz.com.my/ajbc)

**Results**

**Under-15**

Boy’s Singles: Jack Yak, Yu Yuan Secondary School  
 Boy’s Doubles: Jack Yak and Kerwin Soh, Yu Yuan Secondary School  
 Girl’s Singles: Deirdre Gianna Michael, SMK Tamparuli  
 Girl’s Doubles: Airish Batrisyah and Alya Nur Syarafana, SM St Patrick, Tawau

**Under-13**

Boy’s Singles : Muhammad Firdaus, SMK Pantai  
 Boy’s Doubles: Muhammad Rafiq, SMK Merotai Besar Tawau, Sabah and Syahmi Rizq, SMK Abaka Tawau  
 Girl’s Singles : Law Kai Ling, Kuen Cheng High School  
 Girl’s Doubles : Karys Gan, SJKC Chiao Nan and Law Kai Ling, Kuen Cheng High School

**Under-11**

Boy’s Singles : Louis Rhys Zeno, SK St John Beaufort  
 Girl’s Singles: Ivana Celine Chang, SKC Anglo Chinese, KK

AJBC 2024’s Qualifying Round details are as follows:

Qualifying Round	Date	Venue
1	3 – 5 May 2024	Wintel Sports & Hotel, Taiping, Perak
2	17 – 19 May 2024	Jesselball Pearl City Sports Centre, Penang
3	28 – 30 June 2024	Dewan KBA, Alor Setar, Kedah
4	12 – 14 July 2024	Tops Arena Empire, Cheras, Kuala Lumpur
5	19 - 21 July 2024	Seven Stone Badminton Court, Kuching, Sarawak

6	26 - 28 July 2024	Olympia Badminton Arena, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
7	9 - 11 August 2024	Titan Indoor Sport, Kluang, Johor
8	23 - 25 August 2024	Dewan Badminton Tengku Anis, Pengkalan Chepa, Kelantan
9	11 - 13 October 2024	Jebat Racquet Sports Centre, Bukit Beruang, Melaka
10	18 - 20 October 2024	Kuantan Synergy Sports Centre, Pahang
GF	20 – 25 November 2024	Stadium Juara, Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur

#### About Allianz in Malaysia

The investment holding company, Allianz Malaysia Berhad, a subsidiary of Allianz SE, has two insurance subsidiaries - Allianz General Insurance Company (Malaysia) Berhad ("Allianz General") and Allianz Life Insurance Malaysia Berhad ("Allianz Life"). Allianz General is one of the leading general insurers in Malaysia and has a broad spectrum of services in personal lines, small to medium enterprise business and large industrial risks. The GWP for general insurance business for financial year 2021 reached a mark of RM2.43 billion. Allianz Life offers a comprehensive range of life and health insurance and investment-linked products and for the financial year 2021, Allianz Life recorded a GWP of RM3.26 billion and is one of the fastest growing life insurers in Malaysia. Allianz Malaysia has 32 branches nationwide.

In 2021, Allianz Malaysia won The Edge Billion Ringgit Club (BRC) Financial Services (below RM10 billion market capitalisation) award for the highest growth in profit after tax (PBT) over three years. The Company also bagged the Malaysia International Business Awards 2021 (Life Insurance category) and three awards at the Global Banking & Finance Awards: Insurance Brand of the Year Malaysia 2021; Best General Insurance Product Malaysia 2021; and Best Insurance Social Media Engagement Malaysia 2021. In 2020, Allianz Malaysia was awarded the Industry Excellence Award for financial services at the MSWG-ASEAN Corporate Governance Awards. The Company also ranked seventh amongst the Top 100 Companies for Overall Corporate Governance and Performance (by Rank) and 16th amongst the Top 100 Companies for Corporate Governance Disclosure (by Rank).

To learn more about Allianz Malaysia, visit [allianz.com.my](http://allianz.com.my)

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#### About Allianz

The Allianz Group is one of the world's leading insurers and asset managers with more than 126 million\* private and corporate customers in more than 70 countries. Allianz customers benefit from a broad range of personal and corporate insurance services, ranging from property, life and health insurance to assistance services to credit insurance and global business insurance. Allianz is one of the world's largest investors, managing around 809 billion euros on behalf of its insurance customers. Furthermore, our asset managers PIMCO and Allianz Global Investors manage nearly 2.0 trillion euros of third-party assets. Thanks to our systematic integration of ecological and social criteria in our business processes and investment decisions, we are amongst the leaders in the insurance industry in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index. In

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 AllianzMalaysia

2021, over 155,000 employees achieved total revenues of 148.5 billion euros and an operating profit of 13.4 billion euros for the group.

*\*Including non-consolidated entities with Allianz customers.*

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