

# MUNSTER TENNIS,

## PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2024

### 1. RULES

1.1 The following rules shall apply to the JUNIOR Schools Competitions 2023/2024 organised by the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland. Any breach of these rules may result in a fine, suspension or disqualification from the competition.

1.2 All matches shall be governed by the Rules of Tennis as published by the International Tennis Federation.

1.3 The conduct of players and spectators shall be governed by the Codes of Conduct for Players and Spectators approved by Tennis Ireland. A copy of each of these documents should be available at the venue.

1.4 Common courtesy is expected of all Schools towards visiting teams.

1.5 The Competitions Committee shall have power to deal with any matter which may arise in connection with this competition and which is not provided for in these rules.

1.6 These Competitions shall be subject to the Tennis Ireland Complaints Objections and Disciplinary Rules and Procedures with the exception of CI3.3.1(a) of Part 2 (The Procedures) which shall be amended to read "Submitted in writing by Registered Post to the Administrator of Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland" and CI3.3.1(b) which shall be amended to read "48 hours" instead of "30 minutes". Note that these changes have been agreed with Tennis Ireland.

1.7 The failure of the opposing team, the Competitions Convenor or the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland to identify a breach of these rules shall not of itself negate the breach. Any breach discovered at any time will result in a sanction to be decided by the Competitions Committee including but not limited to disqualification from the competition.

1.8 These Rules together with the current Rules of Tennis as published by International Tennis Federation are available online.

### 2. COMPETITIONS

2.1 In the event that the entry in any of the events is deemed by the Junior Competitions Committee to be too small to use the standard league/knockout format described herein, the format may be changed or the event combined with another region. The decision of the Junior Competitions Committee in this regard shall be final. Specific rules attaching to any changed format will be issued with the details of the draw for that event.

2.2 Subject to Rule 2.1 above, this event shall be run on a combination league/knockout draw basis.

2.3 The league section of the competition will be run as follows:-

-Entrants shall be arranged generally in groups of 3/4 teams. Where necessary the Competitions Committee may change this number depending on entries. Competition will be on a round robin basis i.e. all teams in each group play each other once.

2.4 Each team will be awarded one point for each match won in a fixture. The two teams with the highest number of points in each group at the end of the league section of the competition will qualify for entry into the knockout section of the competition.

2.5 In the event that there are more than 2 teams in a group on equal points the teams to qualify will be decided based on the following:

-The number of wins, draws, losses between the tied teams :-

-The total number of sets won by each team in the round robin will be used.

-The total number of games won by each team in the round robin will be used.

-A play off.

2.6 In the event that there are 2 teams in a group on equal points the team to qualify in first position will be decided based on the following between the tied teams :-

-The result of the fixture between the tied teams will determine the overall winner

-The total number of sets won by each team in the round robin will be used

-The total number of games won by each team in the round robin will be used

-A play off

2.7 (a) In the knockout section of the competition in the top half of the draw the top team drawn shall have home venue in the first round. In the second and later rounds the team who did not have home venue in the previous round shall have a home fixture. A by or walk over counts as having home venue. Where both or neither had a home fixture in the previous round, the top team shall have home advantage.

2.7(b) In the bottom half of the draw the bottom team shall have home venue in the first round. In the second and later rounds the team who did not have home venue in the previous round shall have a home fixture. A by or walk over counts as having home venue. Where both or neither had a home fixture in the previous round, the bottom team shall have home advantage.

2.8 The format of the fixtures in the knockout section of the competition shall be exactly as for the league section. Each team will be awarded a point for each match won in a fixture. The team with the highest number of points will move forward to next round. However, in the knockout section of the competition where both teams have the same number of

points at the end of the matches, a deciding set (super mixed) will be played. The super doubles will consist of one tie break set to be played between a pair from each team made up of players who have not already played together in the fixture.

2.9 At all stages of the competition (both league and knockout) all matches in a fixture must be completed.

2.10 A match shall consist of the best of 3 tie break sets or 2 tie break sets and Championship Tie Break or 2 tie break sets (No Advantage) and Championship Tie Break depending on the event.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Only Primary & Secondary Schools in the Province of Munster may enter this competition.

3.2 Eligible players may play in this competition for any one School.

**3.2.1 Note that for some events to ensure participation for as many juniors and schools as possible and where schools are unable to fill a team it is allowable use up to 2 players from another school as members of the team. The school must provide a home venue for the team. See event details towards the bottom of this document below:**

3.3 All players MUST have permission of their parents to play.

3.4 All players taking part in this competition must be registered on the National Player Database (NPD) and must have their unique Tennis Ireland PIN No.

3.5 Players may only play for one School in this competition.

3.6 Players may only play in one final on final's weekend.

3.7 A School entering more than one team in an event shall treat each team as if from a different School. There can be no inter change of players or substitutes between teams in the same competition.

3.8 Teams must seek replacements from a lower standard if they are unable to find a sub from the same standard.

3.9 No player may play outside their own eligible age group or event.

3.10 All reference to Ranking refers to the Tennis Ireland Junior Ranking.

3.11 Any team which uses a player who is not eligible to play under the rules of this competition shall be disqualified. The ineligible player shall be prohibited from taking part in any of the events in this competition in the year in which the offence occurred.

### 4. Entries

4.1 The Junior Competitions Committee reserves the right to refuse to accept an entry to any of the events in this competition. Any entries not accepted by the Junior Competitions Committee will have their entry fee refunded.

4.2 In the case of Schools entering more than one team in any event please note that there is no guarantee they will in separate sections or round robins.

4.3 Entries should be made on Tournament Software. Team Members MUST be named at time of entry.

4.4 The entry fees shall be €60 per team.

4.5 Schools should satisfy themselves that players are an eligible standard for the teams for which they are selected.

### 5. Fixtures

5.1 Fixtures shall be played on the date specified by the Competitions Committee as shown on the draw sheets. Matches must be played as per the time suggested by the home team. However, no team travelling more than 50km may be asked to play before 11.00am or after 3.00pm but may do so by mutual agreement. Fixtures may be played before the specified date provided both Schools are in agreement to do so. Schools are not obliged to agree to any request from the opposing team to change the date of the fixture specified by the Competitions Committee. However, having agreed to change the date, then this becomes the official date of the fixture. Only the nominated contact as listed on the official contact list or an alternative contact as per Rule 5.2 may arrange an alternative date in advance of the date specified for the fixture by the Competitions Committee. Details of any agreed changes to the date of any fixture must be notified to the Competitions Convenor of Munster Branch by the team requesting the change a minimum of 3 days before the new date.

5.1 Fixtures may be played before the specified date provided both Schools are in agreement to do so. Schools are not obliged to agree to any request from the opposing team to change the date of the fixture specified by the Competitions Committee. However, having agreed to change the date, then this becomes the official date of the fixture. Only the nominated contact as listed on the official contact list or an alternative contact as per Rule 5.2 may arrange an alternative date in advance of the date specified for the fixture by the Competitions Committee. Details of any agreed changes to the date and of any fixture must be notified to the Office of Munster Branch by the team requesting the change a minimum of 3 days before the new date.

5.2 Arrangements in regard to fixtures are to be made by the person listed by the School as the contact in the official entry form. An alternative contact can be substituted by notifying the Administrator of Munster Branch and each of the official contacts in the group a minimum of 7 days before the commencement of the competition.

5.3 A postponement of a fixture is permitted where both teams are in agreement and an alternative date is agreed which does not impact other fixtures or delay the competition and the competition committee is informed prior to the original scheduled date. An email from BOTH Schools must be sent to the Munster Branch where it will be discussed by the Competitions Committee before a decision is made.

5.4 Teams must be proactive in monitoring court conditions, road conditions etc (this must be done within a reasonable time frame i.e. the normal travel time between the 2 Schools plus one hour) so that matches can be cancelled (by approval) before the away team travels. If a team travels and the fixture is cancelled because of a lack of monitoring by the home team, home advantage will be forfeited.

5.5 All members of a team must be available for play at the agreed commencement time. In the event of a player being more than 15 minutes later than the agreed time, such player shall forfeit the first of his/her matches to the opposing team. In the event of a player being more than 30 minutes later than the agreed time, such player shall forfeit both of his/her matches to the opposing team.

5.6 A team who gives a walk over in the league section of the event will automatically be disqualified. All scores from previous matches in which they were involved will be disregarded for the league section of the event. In addition a fine to be decided by the Competitions Committee will be imposed on the School represented by the team in question.

5.7 The "Home" venue means the courts in which the School which is represented by the team is based. 3 courts must be available for the start time for each fixture. Schools need to plan ahead for each tie to determine how many home matches they have and where necessary at an early stage consider swapping home/away fixtures or changing the date of the fixture if required to ensure the correct number of courts will be available.

5.8 In the event that the Home School cannot provide courts for their "Home" fixture as per the official draw the home and away fixtures as per the official draw may be re-arranged by mutual agreement between the two teams involved. If no agreement is reached the fixture shall be played at the "Away" School's courts. The "Home" team then forfeits their "home" fixture.

5.9 The Home School shall have basic toilet and shower facilities available at the venue. Any legitimate complaints in regard to facilities will result in a loss of "Home" advantage for future matches. Schools without such facilities may enter the competition but all of their matches must be played at the Schools against whom they are drawn.

5.10 The Home School shall ensure that courts are up to standard i.e. Nets, Centre Straps, well line surfaces free from obstacles. Any legitimate complaints will result in a loss of "Home" advantage for future matches.

5.11 The Home team must provide new balls which must conform to the Rules of Tennis. ITF Pressurized Tennis Balls are advised to be used throughout the competition. e.g. Wilson, Tretorn Tournament. Pressurized balls will be used on finals weekend.

5.12 Fixtures being held at venues without floodlit courts must commence no later than 14:00.

5.13 The match results shall be entered online to <https://ti.tournamentsoftware.com> by the WINNING team captain within 48 hours of the completion of the fixture or if not possible returned to the Munster Branch office by email to [admin@munstertennis.ie](mailto:admin@munstertennis.ie) or the home team's representative in the event of a draw, The result sheet should be signed by both Team Representatives and a copy preserved by both teams in the event of a later dispute or query.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a sanction being imposed by the Competitions Committee on the team responsible for returning the result and/or the School which it represents. The first sanction shall be a warning, any subsequent sanction shall result in the loss of a point in the group stages and a fine in the knockout stages.

5.14 All players must be clearly indicated on the Result Sheet or online.

5.15 If a player gets injured in the first match of a fixture and does not complete the first match, they then have to give a walkover in the second match.

5.16 The second matches for each fixture must commence within 30 minutes of the first matches finishing, except at Finals.

5.17 Any school team playing a fixture without the full complement of players (must have a minimum of 3 players) must inform the opposition in advance (minimum of 3 hours before the fixture) to avoid players having to travel/attend unnecessarily. Any team not informing their opposition will be fined during the group stage and disqualified during the knockout stages.

## **6. Tournament Contact:**

Administrator : 087 7061230 (office hours only)  
admin@munstertennis.ie

## **7. Perpetual Trophies**

Perpetual Trophies TBC to the winning team in each event. These trophies remain the property of the Munster Branch and shall be held in trust by the winning School for the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland and to be returned duly engraved.

## **8. Finals**

Munster Branch in conjunction with the Junior Competitions Committee shall decide on a date and venue for the finals. Once the date is published, it will not be changed except for extenuating circumstances. This rule will be enforced regardless of any previous precedent.

## **EVENTS:**

### **9. Under 19 Munster Tennis **Secondary Schools** Boys Doubles or Girls Doubles Championships:**

9.1 This event is open to all players outside the Tennis Ireland National Squad who are 19 on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are registered with Tennis Ireland Tournament Software and have a Tennis Ireland PIN.

9.2 A team shall consist of 4 boys for the Boys Doubles Competition or 4 girls for the Girls Doubles Competition.

9.2.1 Where a School cannot fill a team from within their own students it is allowed to select players from other schools to complete the team but a minimum of 2 players must always be from the home school entering the team in the first place and on each match day.

9.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of 4 Doubles matches, where 2 doubles are played first followed by 2 more doubles with reverse pairings. In the event of a tie at 2 matches all, one more doubles will be played between two pairs who have not played together i.e. one player from each doubles combination. The decider will be one tie break set. All players play 2 matches and no order of merit applies.

9.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Adult representative of each team will provide to the adult representative of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grades and the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

9.5 A match shall be the best of 2 tiebreak sets and a Championship Tiebreaker.

### **10. Under 19 Munster Tennis **Secondary Schools** Mixed Doubles Championships:**

10.1 This event is open to all players outside the Tennis Ireland National Squad who are 19 on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are registered with Tennis Ireland Tournament Software and have a Tennis Ireland PIN.

10.2 A team shall consist of 2 boys and 2 girls.

10.2.1 Where a School cannot fill a team from within their own students it is allowed to select players from other schools to complete the team but a minimum of 2 players must always be from the home school entering the team in the first place and on each match day.

10.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of a boys doubles, a girls doubles and followed by 2 mixed doubles. In the event of a tie at 2 matches all, one more mixed doubles will be played between two pairs who have not played together i.e. one player from each mixed doubles combination. The decider will be one tie break set. All players play 2 matches and no order of merit applies.

10.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Adult representative of each team will provide to the adult representative of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grades and the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

10.5 A match shall be the best of 2 tiebreak sets and a Championship Tiebreaker.

## **11. Under 16 Munster Tennis Secondary Schools Boys Doubles or Girls Doubles Championships:**

11.1 This event is open to all players outside the Tennis Ireland National Squad who are 16 on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are registered with Tennis Ireland Tournament Software and have a Tennis Ireland PIN.

11.2 A team shall consist of 4 boys for the Boys Doubles Competition or 4 girls for the Girls Doubles Competition.

11.2.1 Where a School cannot fill a team from within their own students it is allowed to select players from other schools to complete the team but a minimum of 2 players must always be from the home school entering the team in the first place and on each match day.

11.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of 4 Doubles matches, where 2 doubles are played first followed by 2 more doubles with reverse pairings. In the event of a tie at 2 matches all, one more doubles will be played between two pairs who have not played together i.e. one player from each doubles combination. The decider will be one tie break set. All players play 2 matches and no order of merit applies.

11.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Adult representative of each team will provide to the adult representative of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grades and the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

11.5 A match shall be the best of 2 tiebreak sets and a Championship Tiebreaker.

## **12. Under 16 Munster Tennis Secondary Schools Mixed Doubles Championships:**

12.1 This event is open to all players outside the Tennis Ireland National Squad who are 16 on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are registered with Tennis Ireland Tournament Software and have a Tennis Ireland PIN.

12.2 A team shall consist of 2 boys and 2 girls.

12.2.1 Where a School cannot fill a team from within their own students it is allowed to select players from other schools to complete the team but a minimum of 2 players must always be from the home school entering the team in the first place and on each match day.

12.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of a boys doubles, a girls doubles and followed by 2 mixed doubles. In the event of a tie at 2 matches all, one more mixed doubles will be played between two pairs who have not played together i.e. one player from each mixed doubles combination. The decider will be one tie break set. All players play 2 matches and no order of merit applies.

12.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Adult representative of each team will provide to the adult representative of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grades and the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

12.5 A match shall be the best of 2 tiebreak sets and a Championship Tiebreaker.

### **13. Under 14 Munster Tennis Secondary Schools Boys Doubles or Girls Doubles Championships:**

13.1 This event is open to all players outside the Tennis Ireland National Squad who are 14 on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are registered with Tennis Ireland Tournament Software and have a Tennis Ireland PIN.

13.2 A team shall consist of 4 boys for the Boys Doubles Competition or 4 girls for the Girls Doubles Competition.

13.2.1 Where a School cannot fill a team from within their own students it is allowed to select players from other schools to complete the team but a minimum of 2 players must always be from the home school entering the team in the first place and on each match day.

13.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of 4 Doubles matches, where 2 doubles are played first followed by 2 more doubles with reverse pairings. In the event of a tie at 2 matches all, one more doubles will be played between two pairs who have not played together i.e. one player from each doubles combination. The decider will be one tie break set. All players play 2 matches and no order of merit applies.

13.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Adult representative of each team will provide to the adult representative of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grades and the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

13.5 A match shall be the best of 2 tiebreak sets and a Championship Tiebreaker.

### **14. Under 14 Munster Tennis Secondary Schools Mixed Doubles Championships:**

14.1 This event is open to all players outside the Tennis Ireland National Squad who are 14 on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are registered with Tennis Ireland Tournament Software and have a Tennis Ireland PIN.

14.2 A team shall consist of 2 boys and 2 girls.

14.2.1 Where a School cannot fill a team from within their own students it is allowed to select players from other schools to complete the team but a minimum of 2 players must always be from the home school entering the team in the first place and on each match day.

14.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of a boys doubles, a girls doubles and followed by 2 mixed doubles. In the event of a tie at 2 matches all, one more mixed doubles will be played between two pairs who have not played together i.e. one player from each mixed doubles combination. The decider will be one tie break set. All players play 2 matches and no order of merit applies.

14.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Adult representative of each team will provide to the adult representative of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grades and the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

14.5 A match shall be the best of 2 tiebreak sets and a Championship Tiebreaker.

#### **14. Under 12 Munster Tennis Primary Schools Boys Doubles or Girls Doubles Championships:**

14.1 This event is open to all players outside the Tennis Ireland National Squad who are 12 on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are registered with Tennis Ireland Tournament Software and have a Tennis Ireland PIN.

14.2 A team shall consist of 4 boys for the Boys Doubles Competition or 4 girls for the Girls Doubles Competition.

14.2.1 Where a School cannot fill a team from within their own students it is allowed to select players from other schools to complete the team but a minimum of 2 players must always be from the home school entering the team in the first place and on each match day.

14.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of 4 Doubles matches, where 2 doubles are played first followed by 2 more doubles with reverse pairings. In the event of a tie at 2 matches all, one more doubles will be played between two pairs who have not played together i.e. one player from each doubles combination. The decider will be one tie break set. All players play 2 matches and no order of merit applies.

14.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Adult representative of each team will provide to the adult representative of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grades and the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

14.5 A match will be the first to reach 8 games with a tie-break at 7 all.

#### **15. Under 12 Munster Tennis Primary Schools Mixed Doubles Championships:**

15.1 This event is open to all players outside the Tennis Ireland National Squad who are 12 on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are registered with Tennis Ireland Tournament Software and have a Tennis Ireland PIN.

15.2 A team shall consist of 2 boys and 2 girls.

15.2.1 Where a School cannot fill a team from within their own students it is allowed to select players from other schools to complete the team but a minimum of 2 players must always be from the home school entering the team in the first place and on each match day.

15.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of a boys doubles, a girls doubles and followed by 2 mixed doubles. In the event of a tie at 2 matches all, one more mixed doubles will be played between two pairs who have not played together i.e. one player from each mixed doubles combination. The decider will be one tie break set. All players play 2 matches and no order of merit applies.

15.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Adult representative of each team will provide to the adult representative of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grades and the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

15.5 A match will be the first to reach 8 games with a tie-break at 7 all.

## 16. Under 12 Munster Tennis **Primary Schools Mixed Doubles Championships (Green Ball)**:

16.1 This event is open to all players outside the Tennis Ireland Junior Ranking **(have no ranking points)** who are 12 on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are registered with Tennis Ireland Tournament Software and have a Tennis Ireland PIN.

16.2 A team shall consist of 2 boys and 2 girls.

16.2.1 Where a School cannot fill a team from within their own students it is allowed to select players from other schools to complete the team but a minimum of 2 players must always be from the home school entering the team in the first place and on each match day.

16.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of a boys doubles, a girls doubles and followed by 2 mixed doubles. In the event of a tie at 2 matches all, one more mixed doubles will be played between two pairs who have not played together i.e. one player from each mixed doubles combination. The decider will be one tie break set. All players play 2 matches and no order of merit applies.

16.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Adult representative of each team will provide to the adult representative of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grades and the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

16.5 A match will be the first to reach 8 games with a tie-break at 7 all. **All matches are to be played using GREEN BALLS.**