



Junior Interprovincial Team Selection System 2024

Munster Tennis strives to field the most competitive Munster Junior Interprovincial Teams for to represent Munster in the Tennis Ireland Interprovincial Championships (which are held each year) while also supporting the Irish Junior Tennis circuit including the Munster based events. The objective is to select players based on results that have excelled the most in junior competitions each year. There is significant competition for places on Munster interprovincial Teams and a clear and transparent system is in place for selection of the Teams.

Overview

This document is intended to outline/document a series of modifications to selection and operation of the Munster Tennis Junior Interprovincial teams from 2024 onwards.

Current selection System/Historical Approach

The 2022-2023 selection system and previous systems were based on a ranking cut-off at a specific date, (typically the ranking published after the Irish Junior Closed Championships in Rushbrooke LTC) where the top 3 ranked players are automatically selected along with 1 or 2 wild cards nominated by the Munster Branch Junior Selection Committee.

Junior Interprovincial Team Selection System 2024

The new selection system which is **fully** based on Player Ranking is proposed for 2024*.

This selection system is designed to be equitable and transparent for all parties involved in the process. **A key aim of this selection process is that it recognises a junior tennis player's performance in official ranked tournaments over the full tennis year and not just based on ranking points at one specific time.** So for example, players that have ranked high earlier in the year are recognised in terms of accumulating points for selection. Such a system also allows junior interprovincial training to commence earlier in the year.

The proposed system is based on capturing ranking points at two points in the year at the following dates and cumulatively taking these into account for final selection.

Ranking Date	Rational
1st March	Recognises that players may have achieved rankings points from the previous tennis season.
1st August (or ranking week that includes Irish Junior Close Championship)	Recognises that players may have achieved significant ranking over the summer period.
Final Combined Ranking	Combination of 1st March and 1st August ranking points

** The selection system above will include on the team the top 4 ranked players in singles and the top ranked player in doubles. Should the top ranked player in doubles be also ranked within the top 4 in singles then the player ranked 5th in singles will be selected.*

Ranking Wildcard

It is proposed that one (1) ranking wildcard is available for singles but can only be used where a player that has ranked in a top 3 position at the March ranking cut-off but is outside the top 5 in August due to injury and not being able to compete between the March and August timeframes. **Such a wildcard would only be considered for use in exceptional circumstances and require medical certification and would be utilised at the agreement of the NPC and Junior Committee. If applied, the player would replace the 5th ranked singles player on the Final Combined Ranking in August.**

Interprovincial Training Programme

It is envisaged that a specific **Interprovincial Training Programme** that runs over the March - August period be developed and delivered by the appointed Non Playing Captain (NPC). This programme would focus on specific areas such as doubles and mixed play and move to a number of locations to ensure that different playing surfaces are experienced. This would ensure that the NPC has full visibility on the strengths and weaknesses of each player and the optimal doubles/mixed combinations of players. The NPC will have the opportunity to invite different players to the training sessions as/if the Top 5 in the Rankings change during the course of the Programme. It is also proposed that external expertise in specialist areas be brought into this programme to support the NPC. Potentially this squad would be funded by the players or by sponsorship by forming a separate and fully costed programme. This would ensure the costs of the NPC, assistant and any additional coaching expertise required can be funded.

NPC Appointment

It is the intention of Munster Tennis that the NPC for the Junior Interprovincial Training Programme be appointed by the Junior Selection Committee as early as January 2024.

Important notes for Junior Players & their Parents:

- The official Irish National Junior Rankings will be utilised for all team selections. *(This essentially takes a players top 6 tournament results over 12 months into account -see below for details).*
- Junior Interprovincial teams consist of 5 girls and 5 boys.
- **To be eligible for selection players must be active players competing and have played at least 2 junior events in Munster in the 12 months prior to the 1st of August 2024.**
- Players will be expected to attend all training sessions and will be required to submit the reason for any non-attendance to NPC/ Munster Branch. Exceptions will only be made for those training abroad or involved in official tournaments at the time of the training session(s).
- Players must confirm they are fit to play for Munster. Should a player suffer an injury he/she must inform the non-Playing Captain immediately to discuss options.
- Players must commit to prepare specifically for the Interprovincial Championships and for each day of the event.
- Players must be available for the duration of the Interprovincial Championships including official meals and presentations.
- Players must commit to compete to the best of their ability at all times when representing Munster.
- Players must confirm they understand that this is a team event and that each individual performance is critical to the team performance and results.
- Players must play in specific matches, and may play with specific partners as directed by the non Playing captain. Decisions of the non Playing Captain are final.
- Players must provide their most recent player profile information and a good digital photo for promotional purposes. Players must be available for photo opportunities during the Inter-Provincial Championships.
- Players must wear the official Munster supplied Kit for all matches during the event.
- **Failure to adhere to the required procedures may unfortunately result in a player forfeiting their place on the team.**

The Tennis Ireland Junior Ranking

-The Basics- How does it work?:

Rankings are processed on a weekly basis.

All Open Junior tournaments that have finished by Sunday are included in the following Tuesday ranking update.

- Players must win one match to receive any ranking points.
- Only points accumulated in the most recent 12 months (52 weeks) count towards a player's ranking. After this period the points drop off.
- The rankings take Irish & International Junior events into account.
- Players must notify Tennis Ireland of any international tournament they may have entered by sending an email to npd@tennisireland.ie, including name and link to the relevant draws.
- Only the highest points received from all the tournaments played count towards a player's ranking. **The number of highest points that will count is a maximum of only 6 for Junior players over a 12 month period. (A players best 6 results in one year)**
- Points are awarded according to the round the player reaches and the Category allocated to the event. Examples:
 - A player that wins in the final gets more points that a player that reaches quarterfinals and loses or gives a walk-over in the next match.
 - A player that wins a Category 1000 (1000) event gets more points that a player that wins a Category 200 (200) event.
- TI Ranking Tables provide information about how many points a player will get for reaching a given round in an Open Tournament for each Category. You can access the Junior table through the following link:

<https://www.tennisireland.ie/2023-junior-tour-ranking-points-table>

For further detailed information see the following link:

<https://www.tennisireland.ie/competitions/world-tennis-number-and-rankings/rankings-how-do-they-work>