



Re: Munster Tennis Winter Tennis League Phase 1 (Mixed Teams) and Beyond.

A Chairde,

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Munster Branch Council to formally announce the **2022 -2023 Munster Tennis Winter Tennis League Phase 1 (Mixed Teams)**. Last year the expanded Munster Tennis Winter League was highly successful with over 330 Teams competing over 2 Phases. It is now the Largest Tennis League in Europe! Phase 1 last year introduced singles in the league for the first time; which proved very popular and we have retained this format again this year.

Planned Further Expansion & Innovation:

This year the league is to be expanded again to offer more choice and therefore increase the number of potential teams & players. One of the main changes is the addition of 2 special events: **The Over 65 Team event (Mixed Doubles only)** and **The Over 75 Team event (Mixed Doubles only)**. For these events only it will be possible to combine clubs to make a team as long as there are 2 players from one club. The rest of the League competition at all grades/divisions is under the normal rules. **But please check Tournament software for details.**

Munster Tennis are further delighted to announce that it will also Launch and run a new associated **Connacht Tennis League** in cooperation with Connacht Branch of Tennis Ireland. This is a very exciting development for Tennis in both Munster & Connacht. This new League will be run by us in the same way as the main Munster League. Following the League finals it is planned that the top Teams in Connacht in each division/grade will playoff against top Teams in Munster for the overall Title in the inaugural **Interprovincial Champions Cup**.

The final format, details and dates for this innovation will be announced shortly most likely once entries are in. However I can confirm now that all Semi Finals & Finals for the Leagues and the **Interprovincial Champions Cup** will be held in early 2023. **All competitions are online entry and payment only.** The Munster Tennis Competitions Committee headed by Convenor Paul O'Callaghan have put in significant work in to setting up the League and are working hard on finalising remaining matters. Their work and the continued work of our Administration Manager Triona Buckley in this regard has been and is invaluable.

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World Tennis Number

The new **World Tennis Number (WTN)** (worldtennisnumber.com) that was launched last year by the ITF (International Tennis Federation) and Ireland was one of the first 10 nations to launch with them. The WTN for each player is going to be monitored for all Teams in Phase 1 along with our normal Munster grading and we are hoping to utilise the WTN system for Phase 2 of the league next year. We hope to do a seminar or two about this and other related competition matters and details for those will be announced in due course.

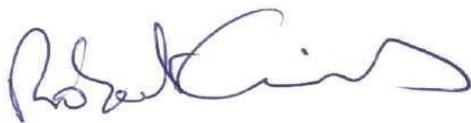
It is a very exciting development as it will mean that the power of modern computer technology (and associated algorithms) are utilised and it is this which will be what calculates your Rating (Grade) based on your results and the strength of the players you faced. It will no longer be a manual exercise. It will also take the score of each particular match into account. If you do well and win matches your rating will get better, if you have a bad run and lose a series of matches your rating may drop back. It will also help highlight players that are too strong for a particular grade or division. Exciting times are upon us.

To better inform and support our clubs we also hope to announce in the next 3/4 weeks the dates for all the main Munster Competitions and Munster run Competitions in 2023 so that Clubs and players will be able to plan well in advance and plan the year ahead.

If there are queries please feel free to contact our office and/or our competitions convenor Paul O'Callaghan. I also will be more than happy to talk to anyone in relation to the League. We are all part of the same team supporting tennis. Onwards and upwards...

Go raibh míle maith agaibh

Is mise le meas



Robert M. Cummins
President Munster Tennis
Uachtarán Leadóige na Mumhan