



# Junior Interprovincial Team Selection System

## 2024

### FAQ

#### **What does Munster Tennis wish to achieve? What is our Goal?**

*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. There are two age groups: under 14 and under 18.*

#### **What is the Purpose of a Selection Process?**

*The objective is to select players based on results that have excelled the most in official junior open competitions over the past year or so. There is significant competition for places on Munster interprovincial Teams and a clear and transparent system is in place for selection of the Teams. Performance in all sports is measured by what players achieve in official ranking events.*

#### **Why use the Tennis Ireland Junior Rankings for the Selection Process?**

*Rankings have been used by the ITF (The International Tennis Federation) for over 50 years. Over that time they have developed and progressed to a point where all facets of International Tennis use rankings as a fair and transparent metric of the performance of elite players. Munster Tennis strives to follow the example set and the advice of the ITF and to use the Tennis Ireland Junior Rankings as the basis of the selection process. The ranking system affords all players an opportunity to demonstrate their competitiveness locally and, on the ITF Junior, Tennis Europe and World Tour tournaments should they be eligible.*

#### **What about eligible Junior Players playing abroad?**

*Any players who have declared for and qualify to play for Munster and who are playing or practicing abroad need to send their results in ITF Junior, Tennis Europe and World Tour tournaments to Tennis Ireland as per the information at the end of this document and also as on the Tennis Ireland Website so that those results are included in the Tennis Ireland Junior Rankings.*

### **How many events do Junior players need to play in over a 12 month period?**

*There is a general consensus within the ITF and with most of the National Federations that Junior players who strive to be reach the upper levels of their sport need to play at least 60 competitive matches per year. However the Tennis Ireland Junior Rankings are only based on your Top 6 events in the previous 12 months. Please see detailed note at the end of this document in relation to rankings.*

### **What happens if a player is injured?**

*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 5<sup>th</sup> ranked singles player on the Final Combined Ranking in August.*

### **Is there a minimum eligibility for Players?**

To be eligible for selection players must be active players competing and ideally have played at least 2 junior events in Munster in the 12 months prior to the 1st of August 2024. For 2025 it is envisaged that the requirement to play 2 events in Munster would become mandatory to support tennis in the province and allow local players a chance to play some of the top players.

### **What about Players changing Age Group on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024?**

Each Interprovincial Team covers several age groups. The primary ranking for selection for the Under 14 Team is the under 14 Tennis Ireland Ranking. The primary ranking for selection for the Under 18 Team is the under 18 Tennis Ireland Ranking. It is not possible to manually combine rankings from different age groups fairly and a decision had to be made as to what ranking would be the priority in each case. There is no easy way to design a system to give an advantage to one group of players in one age group over another coming up. If rules were set to “help” players changing age groups then conversely it would disadvantage those players in their second or third year under 18 etc. There may be developments with this in future years as there will be a review in September 2024.

# The Tennis Ireland Junior Rankings

## -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](mailto: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 than 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 than 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>