



MUNSTER TENNIS

Interprovincial Panel Training Pathway.

(IP Training Pathway)

Munster Tennis, Munster Tennis Hub, Fota Island Resort, Co. Cork

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The Munster Tennis IP Training Pathway

The Vision:

Our vision is to rekindle the interest and importance of playing for Munster.

Our aim is to restore the sense of honour and privilege associated with being part of the provincial team.

Our goal is to inspire players to commit to training and competing as a team, fostering a cohesive panel that will bond together and fight for each other under the Munster banner.

Plan Specifics:

1. SELECTION

Selection of teams has been a contentious issue, but one of our main objectives is to provide clarity and transparency. Clear criteria will allow players to understand what is required to be selected. This approach has opened lines of communication and we received positive feedback.

Criteria for Selection

- **Top 3 boys and girls** in U14 and U18 singles and doubles rankings.
- **2 invitational players** of our choice per panel.
- **Emphasis on doubles pairings and partnerships** to observe player chemistry and effectiveness on the court. Too many points are lost due to not having a suitably strong doubles pair.

Invitational Players

- Selected for reasons such as:
 - Recovery from injury.
 - Lack of ability to travel to tournaments.



- Age group changes.
- Being of suitable standard from the hosting club, despite age.
- Provides opportunities for players to gain experience and showcase their potential.



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2. PROCESS

- Panel places are offered 2 weeks in advance based on current rankings.
- If a player is unavailable, the next ranked player is offered the spot.
- This method identifies committed players with the right attitude and dedication to the Munster team.

3. NUMBERS

- Five panels have been held so far with two more planned before the end of June.
- Over 50 players from U14 and U18 age groups have participated.
- Participation from 8 past Interprovincial players has inspired current players.
- Club coaches are invited to join in the sessions as all feedback is appreciated
- Upcoming panels will initiate a ladder process, allowing top performers from younger age groups to attend older age group panels, driving motivation and development.



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4. 3 Year Plan

- Year 1 , set out goals and structure for panels to begin.
- By the end of year 1, to have established a stronger pathway for Interprovincial players to be able to train together monthly and encourage the feeling of being part of a team and a set of objectives over a long length of time
- To involve players who may not make the eventual team, and have allow them to experience the Interpro feeling and fight for their place on a panel and team.

Year 2

- To progress the panels and involve more clubs, coaches and players
- To have an additional age group's (U12 & U16) added so that the panels have a complete pathway covering all age groups
- To request that Tennis Ireland see to adding the U16 age group back into the Interprovincial series as this age group sees the biggest drop off of players and it helps to bridge the gap between 14s and 18s which has huge differentiation of abilities.
- To have the panels travel to national tournaments (1000, 500 pt tournaments) together so that each player has training buddies and a support system in place.

Year 3

- To have a strong structure in place that is transparent, clear, effective which allows players to train together monthly and with matchplay at the pre-tournament phase
- To have started to break into developing an Under 10 age group moving to 1st year U12 in the upcoming January
- To have panel players invited to attend TE or ITF tournaments abroad traveling with a suitably qualified and experienced coach



- To have panels running in several different venues monthly with coaches who have passion, pride ,expertise and a strong work ethic.



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Updates on Progress:

* Due to the already successful approach to these panels , we have had positive feedback and involved parents , coaches , clubs and the players themselves and asked for how we develop a system that works for all.

This has been very informative and we look forward to working alongside all of the above including the Munster Branch Committee in developing and growing this program to where we feel it can be.

Multiple Venues: • Run panels in several venues monthly, led by coaches with passion, pride, expertise, and strong work ethic.

Clubs already showing interest for next panels:

Causeway

Sundays Well

Lower Aghada

Douglas

Ballinlough

Monkstown (only 12 players)

Garryduff (only 12 players)

Clubs already in support:

Limerick lawn.

St Michael's

Rushbrooke

Bishoptown

Nenagh

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St Annes

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Summary

Due to the already successful approach, we have received positive feedback from parents, coaches, clubs, and players. We have involved these stakeholders in developing a system that works for everyone. This collaborative effort has already had an impact, and we look forward to working with all stakeholders, including the Munster Branch Committee, to further develop and grow this program.

Go raibh maith agaibh.

Jo-Anne Williamson & Willie Reynolds

Non Playing Captains

Munster Under 14 & under 18 Inter-Provincial Teams

for and on behalf of

Branch Council Munster Tennis : Comhairle Leadóige na Mumhan

27th June 2024