



## **MUNSTER BRANCH OF TENNIS IRELAND**

### **WINTER LEAGUE PHASE II**

#### **RULES**

##### **1. RULES**

**1.1** The following rules shall apply to the Winter League Competitions 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 clubs 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** The “Home” team will be required to have a copy of these Rules together with a copy of the current Rules of Tennis as published by International Tennis Federation available at the venue.



## **2. COMPETITIONS**

**2.1** In the event that the entry in any of the events is deemed by the Competitions Committee to be too small to use the standard league/knockout format described herein, the format may be changed or the event cancelled. The decision of the 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 in groups of 4 teams. Where necessary the Competitions Committee may change this number dependant 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:-

- 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 bye 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 bye 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.

**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.



### **3. ELIGIBILITY**

**3.1** Only Clubs and Bodies who are members of Tennis Ireland may enter this competition. Any club entering the competition must have paid all Affiliation fees, Player Capitation fees and Tournament Capitation fees (where applicable) in respect of all years up to December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year immediately preceding the year in which this competition commences. Any club entering this competition must have paid all Affiliation fees in respect of the current year.

**3.2** Eligible players may play in this competition for any one club of which they are a member. **A player must be a member of a club for at least 3 months prior to a fixture and must be listed on the Munster Branch Directory.** In the event that a player is listed in two different grades in the Munster Branch Players Directory his grade for the purposes of this competition shall be deemed to be the higher grade.

**3.3** If a club wishes to use a player who is not listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory, they may do so provided an application to register the player is received by the Munster Branch Administrator at least 7 days prior to the fixture in which it is intended to use the unlisted player. (*Refer to the Munster Branch Player Directory Rules for details of making an application to register a player*).

**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 club in this competition.

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

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

**3.8** Teams must seek replacements from the Munster Directory of a player from a lower grade if they are unable to find a sub from the same grade.

**3.9** No player may play below his/her own grade. Players may enter one event only at their own grade but can sub up on a higher grade once the League begins. A Player can only play in one Final.

**3.10** All reference to grades are to grades as they appear in the Munster Branch Players Directory.



**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 at any grade in this competition in the year in which the offence occurred.



#### **4. Entries**

**4.1** The 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 Competitions Committee will have their entry fee refunded.

**4.2** In the case of Clubs entering more than one team in any event please note that only the "First Choice" team as per the entry form is guaranteed a place. The inclusion of any of the other teams entered by the club in the same event is at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.

**4.3** On-line Entries will close at 5.00pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024. A minimum of 4 Team members MUST be named at time of entry.

**4.4** The entry fees shall be €60 per team.

**4.5** A club which intends to use eligible junior players in any of the events in which juniors are allowed to play (ITN3/4 Premier/Grade1 and ITN5 Grade 2) must submit the names and dates of birth of all intended players with their entry. The Competitions Committee will review the submitted list and notify the entrant of the junior players on this list that it approves to play in the competition. The use of a junior player without such approval shall render the team liable to disqualification. Juniors must be 16 years on the date of the fixture. For any given fixture, only 1 male and 1 female junior may play on a team.



## **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. This applies to matches played on a Saturday or Sunday.

Fixtures may be played before the specified date provided both clubs are in agreement to do so. Clubs 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

**5.2** Arrangements in regard to fixtures are to be made by the person listed by the club 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 captains must be sent to Munster Tennis 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 clubs 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 club represented by the team in question.

**5.7** The “Home” venue means the courts in which the club which is represented by the team is based and not borrowed courts, except under exceptional circumstances and by mutual agreement between the two teams. 3 courts must be available for the start time for each fixture. Clubs need to plan ahead for each weekend 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 club 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” club’s courts. The “Home” team then forfeits their “home” fixture.

**5.9** The Home club 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. Clubs without such facilities may enter the competition but all of their matches must be played at the clubs against whom they are drawn.

**5.10** The Home club 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 flood lit courts must commence no later than 12 noon.

**5.13** The full fixture 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

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

Email: [admin@munstertennis.ie](mailto:admin@munstertennis.ie)

Phone: 087-7061230 (Office Hours Only)



possible returned to the Munster Branch office by email to [admin@munstertennis.ie](mailto:admin@munstertennis.ie). The result is entered on-line by the home team's captain or emailed to [admin@munstertennis.ie](mailto:admin@munstertennis.ie) in the event of a draw. The result sheet should be signed by both Captains and a copy preserved by both teams for reference 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 club 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 junior players must be clearly indicated on the Result Sheet.

**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 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 Committee**

Convenor of Competitions Committee 2024

Administrator : 087 7061230 (**office hours only**)



## **7. General**

Perpetual Trophies shall be presented 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 club for the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland and to be returned duly engraved.



## **8. Finals**

Munster Branch in conjunction with the 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.



## **9. ITN3/4 (Premier/Grade 1) Mixed**

9.1 The ITN 3/4 (Premier/Grade 1) event is open to all players who are over 18 years on the date of entry for the competition provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules. It is also open to any Junior player as per rule 4.5 whose name has been submitted to and approved to take part in the competition by the Competitions Committee. An exception may also be made for any Junior between the ages of 14 and 16 who are ranked nationally in the top 20 in their age group and whose name has been submitted to and approved to take part in the competition by the Competitions Committee. Where a club cannot fill a team from within their own membership it is allowed to select players from other clubs to complete the team but a minimum of 2 players must always be from the home club entering the team in the first place and on each match day.

9.2 A team shall consist of 2 ladies and 2 men.

9.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches:-

1 x Men's Singles; 1 x Ladies Singles; 1 x Mixed Doubles followed by 1 x Mens Doubles and 1 x Ladies Doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

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

## **10. ITN5 (Grade 2) Mixed**

10.1 The ITN 5 (Grade 2) event is open to all players who are over 18 years on the date of entry for the competition provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Director or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

10.2 It is also open to any Junior player as per rule 4.5 whose name has been submitted to and approved to take part in the competition by the Competitions Committee only provided they



- (a) have never played on a provincial or national junior team or
- (b) have not qualified to compete in a national matchplay in the 2 years immediately preceding the year in which these competitions commence.

10.3 A team shall consist of 2 ladies and 2 men.

10.4 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches:-

1 x Men's Singles; 1 x Ladies Singles; 1 x Mixed Doubles followed by 1 x Mens Doubles and 1 x Ladies Doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

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

### **11. ITN6 (Grade 3) Mixed**

11.1 The ITN 6 (Grade 3) event is open to all players who are over 18 years on the date of entry for the competition provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Director or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

11.2 A team shall consist of 2 ladies and 2 men.

11.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches:-

1 x Men's Singles; 1 x Ladies Singles; 1 x Mixed Doubles followed by 1 x Mens Doubles and 1 x Ladies Doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

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

### **12. ITN7 (Grade 4) Mixed**

12.1 The ITN 7 (Grade 4) event is open to all players who are over 18 years on the date of entry for the competition provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players

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Director or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

12.2 A team shall consist of 2 ladies and 2 men.

12.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches:-

1 x Men's Singles; 1 x Ladies Singles; 1 x Mixed Doubles followed by 1 x Mens Doubles and 1 x Ladies Doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

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

### **13. ITN8 (Grade 5) Mixed**

13.1 The ITN 8 (Grade 5) event is open to all players who are over 18 years on the date of entry for the competition provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Director or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

13.2 A team shall consist of 2 ladies and 2 men.

13.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches:-

1 x Men's Singles; 1 x Ladies Singles; 1 x Mixed Doubles followed by 1 x Mens Doubles and 1 x Ladies Doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

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

### **14. ITN9 (Grade 6) Mixed**

14.1 The ITN 9 (Grade 6) event is open to all players who are over 18 years on the date of entry for the competition provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players





Director or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

14.2 A team shall consist of 2 ladies and 2 men.

14.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches:-

1 x Men's Singles; 1 x Ladies Singles; 1 x Mixed Doubles followed by 1 x Mens Doubles and 1 x Ladies Doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

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