

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF OFFICAL TOURNAMENTS

APPROVED BY TENNIS IRELAND

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SECTION 1: GENERAL

1.1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Rules of Tennis Ireland, the Rules of Tennis and the Regulations hereinafter contained, shall be observed in all Tournaments in respect of which an official permit has been issued by Tennis Ireland.

Every player, coach, trainer, relative, parent or guardian, as well as any other player support team member, shall, during all matches and at all times while within the precincts of the site (including the official tournament hotel) of a Tennis Ireland junior tournament, conduct himself/herself in a professional manner. The provisions hereinafter set forth shall apply while within the precincts of each such site.

1.2. DEFINITIONS

Except where otherwise is stated, every reference in these Regulations to the masculine includes the feminine gender, to a competitor or player includes a pair, and to an entry includes the entry of a single competitor or a pair.

“ITN” (International Tennis Number) is a description of playing standard based on assessment and/or results against other players. It gets updated according to the ITF Calculation Formula (04-2004) at the end of the season (November).

“Player Ranking” in 12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under, 18 & Under and Senior (18+) age groups is determined by the best 6 tournament results over a rolling 12 month period. Results are processed on Tuesday following the final publication of the tournament using TTP (Tennis Tournament Planner).

“Tournament Category” Tennis Ireland sanctioned tournaments are Categorised, (Irish Championships being the highest) and count towards a player rankings and ratings (ITN). Tournament Categories are published on www.tennisireland.ie. They are reviewed at the end of the year and modified accordingly.

12 & Under is the age designation for players who are 11 or under on the 31st of December of the previous year. Similar age definitions apply for 14 & Under, 16 and Under and 18 and Under.

1.3. POWERS OF TENNIS IRELAND

If a tournament is in breach of these Regulations it is liable to disciplinary action by the Provincial Branch or Tennis Ireland. This action may include the imposition of a fine, downgrading or refusal of a permit for the Tournament or any other action that the Branch or Tennis Ireland deems appropriate.

Tennis Ireland reserves the right to modify the rules and regulations at any time.

1.4. TENNIS IRELAND GRADING SYSTEM

All tournaments that run Graded events shall do so in accordance with the regulations herein pertaining to the Tennis Ireland Grading/Rating system or –ITN (International Tennis Number)

SECTION 2: APPLICATION FOR TOURNAMENT PERMIT

2.1. TOURNAMENT APPLICATION

2.1.1. Any affiliated organisations wishing to hold an Official tournament shall make application to the Honorary Secretary of the relevant Provincial Branch no later than 31st August in the preceding year. Late applications may not be accepted.

2.1.2. Such applications shall be on the form duly prescribed for the time being, which form shall be circulated by Tennis Ireland or its affiliated Provincial Branches to each affiliated organisation not later than 31st July.

2.1.3. After 31st August in each year, the Provincial Branch shall draw up a Provincial schedule of tournaments for the succeeding year and shall forward these to Tennis Ireland Competitions Convenor no later than 30th September.

2.1.4. By the 31st October the Tennis Ireland Competitions Committee will have reviewed each Provincial Calendar and draw up the National Calendar and sent this to each Provincial Branch for comment.

2.1.5. By 15th November each Provincial Branch shall have returned any comments to the Competitions Committee.

- 2.1.6. By 30th November, the Competitions Committee shall arrange for the publication of the tournament Calendar for the succeeding year and shall arrange for the circulation of this list to those affiliated organisations which have applied for such tournaments. At the same time the Provincial Branch will issue official permits to the affiliated organisations which have been granted dates in the succeeding year's calendar.
- 2.1.7. In making application for the holding of a tournament, each affiliated organisation must pay to its Provincial Branch the permit fee for the time being in operation in respect of the category of Tournament which it is proposed to hold.
- 2.1.8. Tennis Ireland shall have power to prohibit the holding of any tournament which has not been sanctioned in the manner herein before described.

SECTION 3: ENTRY FORM, PROSPECTUS AND PRIZE MONEY

An entry form, incorporating a prospectus, shall be issued by the Committee of every Official Tournament, which prospectus shall specify the conditions of the Competition. A copy of the entry form shall be sent or a Word or pdf file Version shall be e-mailed forthwith to the Honorary Secretary of the Provincial Branch and, in the case of a Tournament which is being held for the first time, a proof of these documents to such Honorary Secretary for approval by the Provincial Branch prior to its issue to the Public.

3.1. PROSPECTUS

The prospectus shall include the following particulars:

- 3.1.1. The name, dates and full address of the tournament site with the telephone number of the tournament or the Referee's office, and the name(s) of any sponsor(s).
- 3.1.2. The Internet web address where the draws will be published.
- 3.1.3. The Category of the tournament and that the Tournament is sanctioned by Tennis Ireland and will be conducted under the Rules of Tennis and the Rules and Regulations of Tennis Ireland and that the Tennis Ireland Code of Conduct will apply.
- 3.1.4. The names of the Tournament Committee and Referee.
- 3.1.5. Players are prohibited from entering more than one Tournament taking place during the same period. (See rule 5.1.2)
- 3.1.6. The amount of entrance fees per event, per player and that no entry may be accepted without the appropriate entry fee.
- 3.1.7. The value of the prizes for each Open event subject to Section 3.3.1
- 3.1.8. The place of receiving, and the date and hour of close, of entries.
- 3.1.9. The days and dates, in full, and the hours of commencement of play and, where relevant, the earliest date of commencement of play in specific events.
- 3.1.10. The date, time and place of the draw, which will be open to accepted entrants. The deadline by which a player may withdraw without penalty.
- 3.1.11. The number and description of the courts available for use.
- 3.1.12. The ball to be used, which must conform to the Rules of Tennis.
- 3.1.13. A list of all events to be included, together with any restrictions on entry (such as age), any maximum numbers in any event, and if the holding of an event is conditional on the size of the entry, the minimum number of such entries required.
- 3.1.14. Any maximum number of events that players are allowed to enter, together with any restrictions on combinations of events.
- 3.1.15. Restriction as to clothing to be worn. (See also 5.6.)

- 3.1.16. That all competitors are either registered members of Tennis Ireland (TI PIN) or agree to become so at the tournament. A player or Tournament Organiser can register online at <https://ti.tournamentsoftware.com/>
- 3.1.17. That no complaint in connection with the conduct of the Tournament can be entertained by the Committee unless made in writing and lodged with the Tournament Committee within 48 hours of the occurrence of the cause of same and no application for leave to appeal against any decision of the Committee can be entertained by the Provincial Branch unless made in writing and lodged with the Honorary Secretary of the Provincial Branch within ten days of the receipt of that decision. The Tennis Ireland Complaint, Objection and Disciplinary Rules and Procedures will be followed.
- 3.1.18. For events containing an Irish title, application for leave to appeal should be lodged with Tennis Ireland within 10 days of the Tournament Committee decision.
- 3.1.19. The number and type of sets, whether Advantage or No Advantage games are to be played, and if a match tie-break may be used instead of an advantage final set in each event.
- 3.1.20. A tournament which wishes to restrict the number of entries in any of its events must state clearly the method of elimination to be used (according to Rule 3.1.21.)and, if applicable, the fact that entries will be closed when those numbers have been reached.
- 3.1.21. Acceptance into Category/Grade 2 and above tournaments must be based on National or Provincial Rankings. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to issue a stated number of Qualifying Draw wild cards into events. Such numbers must comply with the following limits:

Number of entries	16	24	32	48	64	96	128
Wild Cards	2	4	6	7	8	8	8

- 3.1.22. Acceptance into Category/Grade 3 and below tournaments can be decided by first come first served basis or based on National or Provincial Rankings.
- 3.1.22. The Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry.
- 3.1.24. Details of any qualifying events to be held.
- 3.1.25. If age-related events (juniors and veterans) are included the qualifying date should be specified

3.2. **ENTRY FORM**

An Entry form must be completed and signed by each competitor and must include online consent:

- 3.2.1 Forenames (in full); Family Names; Date of Birth (if required); Home Phone; Work Phone; Mobile Phone; W email; Tennis Ireland Registration No (T.I.PIN)
- 3.2.2 The form to be signed by the entrant or electronically validated confirming that he has read, understood and accepted all the conditions of entry, without which signature or validation the entry shall be invalid.
- 3.2.3 For juniors, provision for emergency contact details of parent/guardian shall also be made and for the signature or electronic validation of a parent/guardian stating that he/she is the person with parental responsibility for the player. Such signature or electronic validation in the case of online entries will give consent and authority for:
- Emergency medical treatment as may be recommended by an approved medical authority
 - The competitor to be involved in any publicity connected with the tournament, including media interviews, photographs and TV footage
 - The Tournament organizer to use the details provided in the entry to communicate information about this and future events in the competitor's geographical area.

3.3. **PRIZE MONEY AND PAYMENTS TO COMPETITORS**

- 3.3.1. The prize money or value (no cash prizes for Junior events) as advertised on the entry form shall be paid out unless some restriction has been specified. Players may only win prize money as divided and advertised in the entry form or prospectus.
- 3.3.2. Singles Prize Fund Distribution in Senior Open events will only be made in accordance with the attached schedule. Appendix 8.9.
- 3.3.3. The value of a gift to the winner in Junior events shall not exceed the limit for the time being stipulated by the International Tennis Federation (Tennis Europe for 12, 14 & 16 & Under: \$500.00, ITF Juniors for 18 & Under

\$750.00). Tournament Directors are responsible for ensuring that gifts and services provided to players are suitable for minors.

SECTION 4: POWER & DUTIES OF THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

4.1. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

- 4.1.1. All details connected with any Tournament shall be settled by the Tournament Committee especially appointed for the purpose of whom, two or such larger number as the Committee may determine, shall form a quorum.
- 4.1.2. The Tournament Committee shall be responsible for safety and child protection, maintain order on the tournament site and shall consult and decide upon any questions arising out of the competition, if summoned for that purpose by the Referee or any two of their number.
- 4.1.3. Ensure that all competitors are registered members of Tennis Ireland, except that this shall not apply to ITF or Tennis Europe Tournaments.
- 4.1.4. The Tournament Committee shall consist of at least 3 people. These shall include a Tournament Director, who shall be Chairman, and the Tournament Referee.
- 4.1.5. Ensure that adequate and suitable facilities are available at the tournament site and/or additional locations for the completion of scheduled events, under reasonable weather conditions.
Ensure that the competition complies with all applicable Data Protection Laws and Regulations including without limitation the Data Protection Acts (1988 & 2003) and be bound by these and Tennis Ireland Regulations.
- 4.1.6. Tennis Ireland and the Provincial Branches reserve the right to appoint up to three members onto any Irish Open, or Provincial, Title Tournament Committee.
- 4.1.7. The Committee shall reserve the right to refuse any entry with justifiable reason.

TOURNAMENT ACCOUNTS

- 4.2. The Tournament Committee shall keep separate accounts in respect of each tournament controlled by it, setting out full details of all receipts and expenditure relating to that tournament. Not later than three months from the closing date of any tournament a copy of such accounts shall, if demanded, be rendered to the relevant Provincial Branch, and together with other supporting documents shall be delivered to such Branch for inspection within fourteen days of such demand. If required, full facilities shall be given to such Branch or their nominees to investigate any matters arising out of such accounts.

REFEREE, UMPIRES and COURT SUPERVISORS

4.3.1. APPOINTMENT OF REFEREE

- 4.3.1.1. The Tournament Committee shall appoint a Tennis Ireland approved Referee, who shall be a member of the Committee. Such Referee shall have power, with the consent of the Committee, to appoint a deputy.
- 4.3.1.2. The Committee shall have power to suspend or replace the Referee.
- 4.3.1.3. The Referee and his deputy shall be ineligible to compete in that tournament.

4.3.2. POWERS OF REFEREE

- 4.3.2.1. The Referee or his deputy shall decide any point of law which an Umpire may profess himself unable to decide, or which may be referred to him on appeal from the decision of any Umpire. In all such cases the decision of the Referee shall be final.
- 4.3.2.2. In the absence of an Umpire, the Referee or his deputies may decide a question of fact, if they have witnessed same.
- 4.3.2.3. The Referee or such other member(s) of the Tournaments Committee, so selected for the purpose, shall have power to appoint Umpires and Lines people.

- 4.3.2.4. The Referee or his deputy in unusual/extreme cases shall have power to remove an Umpire or any other court official and to make any necessary replacement but shall report the circumstances to the Tournament Committee as soon as possible. The Court official so removed shall be given an explanation for his replacement.
- 4.3.2.5. The Referee or his authorised deputy may postpone any match or part of a match within the limits of the days sanctioned by Tennis Ireland if, in his opinion, the state of weather or of the light, or the condition of the ground, or other circumstances, render it advisable to so do.

4.3.3. **DUTIES OF REFEREE**

- 4.3.3.1. Be present on-site at all times during the playing of matches in the tournament. If necessary, Assistant Referees should be appointed to cover matches at additional sites or to cover any unavoidable absence of the Referee.
- 4.3.3.2. Be responsible for making the draw. He/she must consult with the Committee to determine the final entry list when there is a limited size of draw (see Rule 3.1.20) the seedings and any other relevant information.
- 4.3.3.3. Ensure that TTP (Tennis Tournament Planner) is used to submit the results within 24 hours of completion of a tournament.
- 4.3.3.3.1. Tournament Tennis Planner (TTP) is a computer software programme designed to assist referees in the running of tournaments and electronic transfer of results. It is provided by Tennis Ireland to all TI sanctioned tournaments.
- 4.3.3.3.2. All Open sanctioned tournaments must use TTP to upload tournament draws into <http://ti.tournamentsoftware.com> and to submit results to Tennis Ireland.
- 4.3.3.4. A detailed referee's report (see 8.7) shall be sent by the Committee to the relevant Provincial Branch within 3 days of the final date of each tournament or sooner if that Branch so demands. Such report shall be accompanied by a cheque payable to the Provincial Branch in respect of the Tournament Capitation fees collected by the Tournament on behalf of the Branch and Tennis Ireland as part of the entry fees.
- 4.3.3.5. The referee is responsible to the Tournament Committee and Tennis Ireland for the conduct of all matches and players, and the Tournament Committee is responsible for the proper organisation of the tournament generally. (an adequate number of court supervisors must be appointed in all Junior Tournaments Categories)
- 4.3.3.6. Plan and publish, as early as possible, an Order of Play for each day.
- 4.3.3.7. Changes in match schedule:
- 4.3.3.7.1. Where a match is rescheduled to a date and time which is different to the time published on the Internet or communicated to a player by phone or on completion of his/her previous match, the player should be notified as soon as possible, either by way of a phone call, e-mail or a text message, of the change in date and time. It is advisable to request confirmation that the message has been received.
- 4.3.3.7.2. A player should not be scratched from a tournament if he/she has not been notified of a scheduled change in the above way.
- 4.3.3.7.3. A player that has lost on any round of an elimination draw cannot be reinstated at any stage of that draw.
- 4.3.3.8. Ensure that all courts are properly equipped and conform to the specifications of the ITF Rules of Tennis, as described on Section 6.
- 4.3.3.9. Approve the assignment of on-court officials and court supervisors. Ensure that on-court officials and ball boys are competent and familiar with the relevant rules and procedures.

4.3.4. **DUTIES OF UMPIRE**

The decision of an Umpire shall be final upon every question of fact and any Competitor expressing disapproval of it, whether by word or action, will render himself liable sanction under the Code of Conduct; but if any Umpire be in doubt as to a point of law, or if a Competitor appeals against his decision on such point, the Umpire shall submit it to the Referee, whose decision shall be final.

4.4. **TENNIS IRELAND PASS**

Every officer and member of the Consultative Council of Tennis Ireland and the relevant Provincial Branch shall be entitled to free admission to a tournament and to a seat in a stand, if available, upon production of the official pass which shall be issued annually to such officers and councillors.

SECTION 5: RIGHTS & OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETITORS

5.1. **COMPETITORS**

- 5.1.1. All competitors shall complete and sign or electronically validate an entry form. They shall enclose their entrance fee, including any Tennis Ireland and Provincial Branch Capitation fees, with their entry form and indicate which events they wish to enter. Signature or electronic validation constitutes acceptance of all the Rules and Regulations of the Tournament.
- 5.1.2. A player is specifically prohibited from entering more than one tournament advertised to take place during the same period except in the case of two events which overlap by no more than two days and then only with the prior written consent of the organiser of the later event. Where the tournament commences/ends with a day of U10s events (ie non ranking event) this date shall not be included for the purpose of calculating a 2-day overlap. Failure to comply with this rule may result in sanction and will result in the loss of any ranking points acquired in any of the tournaments involved. Exception to this rule are
- A. players participating in Irish hosted International events, who may enter a concurrent domestic event with the consent of the domestic Tournament Organiser and then in one singles event only.
- B. Where a player is eliminated from the qualifying draw of the TE/ITF tournament, the player may then have their doubles entry into the domestic event accepted providing the draw has not yet been made and with the consent of the Organiser of the domestic Tournament.
- C. players participating in Irish hosted International events may enter a senior event running concurrently with the consent of the domestic Tournament Organiser that the schedule for the international event receives priority and then in one event only.
- D. Players who are eliminated in the qualifying stages of the international event shall be permitted to enter a second doubles event provided the draw has not yet been made and with the consent of the domestic Tournament Organiser
- E. Where a player enters an event and is accepted directly into the maindraw the dates for the main draw only will be considered when calculating a potential overlap with another event. Once a player is accepted into a maindraw they must withdraw from the second event before that draw is scheduled to be made.
- 5.1.3. A player should undertake to be available for play during the published date of the tournament and shall notify any periods of unavailability at the time of entry. A player that reaches the final round must play in the final and attend the prize giving ceremony.
- 5.1.4. A player whose entry has been accepted shall not withdraw except with the agreement of the Tournament Committee and presentation of a Withdrawal Form (Appendix 8.9). Any breach of this regulation may result in disciplinary action by the Provincial Branch or Tennis Ireland (e.g. penalty points or suspension for a given number of tournaments as per Appendix 8.7.).
- 5.1.4.1. A player who has to withdraw from a tournament because of injury, after the draw has been made, must fill in a withdrawal form, notify the referee and present to the Tournament Committee a Medical Doctor's certificate to substantiate this injury within three days of withdrawal or will be liable to a fine or penalty and the forfeiture of any prize money.
- 5.1.4.2. A player who withdraws from an event, is ineligible to play at any stage on that day, including doubles. (NB A player who retires from a match, through sickness or injury, may play in other events, including a consolation event, the following day or later if sufficiently recovered).
- 5.1.4.3. A player who informs a tournament of withdrawal, after the draw has been made, for other than reason of injury will be liable to a fine or penalty and forfeiture of any prize money.
- 5.1.4.4. A player who fails to inform a tournament of withdrawal and does not appear for a match will be liable to an increased fine or penalty and forfeiture of any prize money.
- 5.1.5. Tournaments should not accept phone entries but if they do, they must request a confirmation email or letter with all the required details.
- 5.1.6. Players shall check on <http://ti.tournamentsoftware.com> or ascertain from the Referee or his assistant the time of his next match.
- 5.1.7. Players must be prepared to undergo any gender or drug testing approved by the ITF as required by Tennis Ireland.

5.2 **FAIR PLAY**

Fair play is much more than playing within the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing in the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of cheating, gamesmanship, doping, violence (both physical and verbal), exploitation, unequal opportunities, excessive commercialisation and corruption.

European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe 1993

5.3. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Tennis Ireland Code of Conduct shall apply at all tournaments. The code is published as 8.6 in these Regulations and shall be prominently displayed at each Official Tournament.

5.4. **DRAW TO BE PUBLIC**

The date, time and place where the Draw for the various level events, is to be made must be stated on the entry form of every Tournament, and competitors shall have a right to be present at the draw.

5.5 **WARM-UP**

There shall be five (5) minutes of warm-up before a match. In the case of a suspended or postponed match, the period of warm-up shall be as follows:

0-15 minutes delay	No warm-up
15 minutes or more but less than 30 minutes	Three (3) minutes of warm-up
30 or more minutes of delay	Five (5) minutes of warm-up

5.6. **CLOTHING**

5.6.1. All players must wear clean and customarily accepted tennis attire and abide by the rules as set out in the published entry form.

5.6.2. Footwear liable to damage the court shall not be permitted.

5.6.3. No identification shall be permitted on a player's clothing, products or equipment on court during a match or at any press conference or tournament ceremony, except as follows:

5.6.3.1. **Shirt**

- Clothing Manufacturer: One Logo on each sleeve neither of which exceed 19.5 square centimetres.
- Main Sponsor of the Tournament: One Logo on any part not to exceed 150 square centimetres.

5.6.3.2. **Shorts or Skirt**

- Clothing Manufacturer: Two Logos neither of which shall exceed 13 square centimetres, or one logo which shall not exceed 26 square centimetres.
- Non-clothing Manufacturer: One Logo not to exceed 19.5 square centimetres.

5.6.3.3. **Hat, Headband and Wristband**

Clothing Manufacturer: One Logo without writing not to exceed 13 square centimetres.

5.7. **NUMBER OF MATCHES AND REST PERIOD**

5.7.1. Under normal circumstances, when using normal sets, a Player shall not be scheduled for more than two singles and one doubles match in a day.

5.7.2. If a player is scheduled for more than one match in a day, the following rest periods should be allowed:

- a) less than 1 hr = 30 mins rest
- b) between 1hr & 1.5 hrs= 1hr rest
- c) between 1.5 & 2 hrs = 1.5 hr rest
- d) more than 2hrs = 2hrs rest

5.8. **PLAYER REST & INJURY**

- 5.8.1. In the event of a player suffering an accident during the match or warm-up, the player will be entitled to receive a one-off three (3) minute Injury Time-Out for that condition so that they can treat themselves or be treated by a Tournament Physician, if one is present. The request for an Injury Time-Out can be made by a player at any time during a match or warm-up but if taken at a changeover, four and a half (4.5) minutes is allowed (to include the 90 second changeover).
- 5.8.2. A player will be allowed up to two treatments for cramping and only at change of ends.
- 5.8.3. After completion of the time-out any delay shall be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule.

5.9. **TOILET BREAK**

- 5.9.1. A player is allowed to request permission to leave the court for a reasonable time for a toilet break, or change of attire in the case of female players. Change of attire breaks must be taken on a set break and toilet breaks should be taken on a set break.
- 5.9.2. A player is entitled to one (1), two (2) in the case of female players, toilet break during a best of three (3) set match.
- 5.9.3. In doubles matches, each team is entitled to a total of two (2) breaks. If partners leave the court together, it counts as one of the team's authorised breaks. Any time a player leaves the court for a toilet break, it is considered one of the authorised breaks regardless of whether or not his opponent has left the court.
- 5.9.4. Any toilet break taken after a warm-up has started is considered one of the authorized breaks.
- 5.9.5. Additional toilet breaks will be authorised but will be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule if the player is not ready to play within the allowed time.
- 5.9.6. A toilet break may not be used for any other purpose.

5.10. **MATCHES WITH NO UMPIRE**

- 5.10.1. Players in a non-umpired match may not leave the court without the permission of the Referee or his appointed deputy other than to seek the Services of the Referee.

5.11. **COMPLAINTS**

Any complaints must be made in writing to the referee and delivered to him, or sent by post as to reach him, within 48 hours of the occurrence of the cause of the complaint. Before considering the complaint and arriving at any decision, the Tournament Committee shall forward to the alleged offender a notice, in writing, stating the grounds of complaint and giving him an opportunity of being heard. After considering the complaint, the Committee shall cause their decision to be delivered or sent by post to the complainant and the alleged offender within four days after the same shall have been made. Save as provided in 5.11 such decision shall be final and binding on both parties concerned. Tennis Ireland Complaints, Objections and Disciplinary Rules and Procedures should be followed.

5.12. **RIGHT OF APPEAL**

- 5.12.1. Any person dissatisfied with, or aggrieved by, a decision of the Committee may apply to the relevant Provincial Branch within ten days after the receipt of such decision for leave to appeal against the same, and the Branch shall forthwith give notice of such application to the Committee, and if such leave be granted the appeal shall be heard at such place and time and in such manner as the Branch shall direct.
- 5.12.2. At Irish Title events, the application to appeal should be sent to Tennis Ireland.

5.13. **OTHER COMPETITIONS**

- 5.13.1. In cases where other competitions are played concurrently with an Official Tournament, the latter must take precedence.
- 5.13.2. Finals of an Official Tournament take precedence over the qualifying or early rounds of a subsequent Official Tournament.

SECTION 6: COURTS & BALLS

6.1. COURT SURFACE

- 6.1.1. At tournaments authorised to be held on a specified surface the Referee may order any match or part of a match to be played on a different surface, if the entry form of the tournament contains a statement that a court(s) with another surface are available and will be used if the condition of the specified courts shall, in the opinion of the referee, render such course necessary.
- 6.1.2. Courts should be marked according to Appendix 8.4. for Under 8 and Under 9 tournaments.

6.2. **COURT EQUIPMENT**

For all official tournaments each court used must be equipped at a minimum with:

- 6.2.1. Clearly marked lines that are visible to the players under any conditions in which matches are played.
- 6.2.2. Net posts that conform to the Rules of Tennis and hold the net at 3ft 6ins. (1.07 metres) and allow the net to be raised or lowered.
- 6.2.3. A net that is in good condition, tied to each net post at three points, and has a centre net band that holds the net down to 3ft (0.914 metres) height at its centre.
- 6.2.4. Singles sticks of 3ft 6ins (1.07 metres), if Singles matches are to be played on a court with a Doubles net. These should be not more than 3 inches (7.5 centimetres) square or in diameter. They shall be placed 3ft (0.914 metres) outside the singles court.
- 6.2.5. Fencing, at least 18ft behind each base line that consistently stops the ball leaving the court area.
- 6.2.6. A measuring stick of 3ft (0.914 metres) shall be available for each court.

6.3. **THE BALL**

- 6.3.1. All official tournaments will use a ball which conforms to the Rules of Tennis and the specification for the time being approved by the International Tennis Federation.
- 6.3.2. All official tournaments must supply a minimum of three balls per match.
- 6.3.3. Any ball change should be consistent throughout an official tournament.
- 6.3.4. Under 8, 9 and 10 events should use adapted balls as defined in Appendix 8.4.

SECTION 7: THE DRAW

7.1. **SEEDING OF THE DRAW**

- 7.1.1. The making of the Draw shall be opened to interested parties, as stated in Rule 5.4, and shall be conducted by the Referee and at least one other member of the Committee (including when done in TTP).
- 7.1.2. At any Official Tournament, the draw in the Level events may be seeded. Unless Tennis Ireland authorises special arrangements seeding shall be subject to the following:

Up to 8 entries	2 may be seeded
With 8 or more entries in an event	2 to 4 may be seeded
With 12 or more entries in an event	4 may be seeded
With more than 24 entries in an event	8 may be seeded
With more than 48 entries in an event	16 may be seeded

- 7.1.3. The entries to be seeded shall be selected by the Committee as being, in their opinion, the best in the event, having taken into account primarily International, National and Provincial Rankings in establishing such an order of merit.
- 7.1.4. A Draw with fewer than 6 entries should be a Round Robin.

The seeded entries shall be placed as set out below:

- 7.1.4.1. Number 1 and 2 shall be placed at the top and bottom of the draw respectively.
- 7.1.4.2. Numbers 3 and 4 shall be drawn by lot, the first person drawn to be placed at the top of the second quarter of the draw and the other at the bottom of the third quarter.
- 7.1.4.3. The remaining seeds should be drawn in groups of four: 5-8, 9-12, 13-16 (or as many of these as are required) from top to bottom as described in the table.

16	24/32	48/64	96/128
(4 seeds)	(8 seeds)	(16 seeds)	(16 seeds)

Seeds 3,4	5	9	17	33
	12	24	48	96
Seeds 5,6,7,8		8	16	32
		16	32	64
		17	33	65
		25	49	97
Seeds 9,10,11,12			9	17
			25	49
			40	80
			56	112
13,14,15,16			8	16
			24	48
			41	81
			57	113

7.1.4.4. Seeding will not be official until the draw is published.

- 7.1.5. If one or more seeded Players withdraw before any match in the event has started, if reasonably practical
- the selection of seeds may be revised (as set out in the table below)
 - the seeded positions that are vacated will be filled by previously unseeded Players, and
 - the unseeded positions that are then vacated will be filled by Players on the reserve list or, if after the start of the qualifying draw, by lucky losers

Seed Withdrawing	Replacement seed
1	2
2	3
3 or 4	5
5 to 8	9
9 to 16	17
17 to 32	33

7.1.6. If two or more of the top eight seeds withdraw more than 24 hours before the start of the event; the Referee shall have the option of re-seeding and remaking the draw.

7.1.7. A team shall constitute a doubles entry. Therefore, if either of the players of a team cannot play, that doubles entry is subject to default and substitution. However, if a player has to withdraw through injury or other unavoidable circumstances before the draw is made, his/her partner may enter again with another player who had not already been accepted in the doubles event. With this exception players may not change partners after the doubles entry deadline. A player shall not change partners after the draw has been made unless the draw is remade due to the withdrawal of seeded teams.

7.1.8. Open events should always be seeded.

7.1.9. After the first match in any event has started no additions or alterations shall be made to the draw. Any vacancy created by the withdrawal of a seed which occurs after the release of the Order of Play on the day preceding commencement of play in the main draw may be filled by an eligible Lucky Loser/reserve. A Lucky Lose/reserve may be inserted as a substitute for any player who withdraws or is withdrawn before the first point is played in his/her first match.

7.2. **METHOD OF DRAW**

7.2.1. The entries in an event will meet in pairs. When the number of entries is 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 or any higher power of two, they shall meet in pairs.

7.2.2. If the number of entries is higher than any of 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, but lower than the next highest number in this sequence there will be byes.

7.2.3. Byes: In the event that there are not enough competitors to fill the draw, then after the seeds are placed in the draw, the required number of byes shall be awarded to the highest seeds as a first priority and any remaining byes shall be drawn by a lot in a manner so as to distribute them as evenly as possible throughout the sections of the draw.

7.2.4. Any seeded players having been already placed in the draw in positions required by section 7.1.4.3, the unseeded players shall be drawn by lot to fill the remaining places starting at the top of the draw.

7.2.5. Tennis Ireland has authorized the placing of seeds further forward called the Rated Draw, as set out in 8.3. The Rated Draw may be used in all Open singles event with 12 or more entries in Official Junior Tournaments.

7.2.6. **QUALIFYING DRAW:** If a qualifying competition is to be held, the draw may be made using either the traditional draw method or shall be made in sections, with one section for each place allotted into the main draw. Each section shall have a maximum of two seeded players.

7.3. OMISSIONS:

If a valid entry has been omitted from the draw due to an administrative error, and is discovered before any match has started, the procedure shall be:

7.3.1. If the omitted player would otherwise be seeded, the position of the seeds shall be changed, with the additional entry taking the relevant place in the seeding list and the previously lowest seed becoming an unseeded player.

7.3.2. If after the draw has been made it is realized that a player has been wrongly left unseeded, the positions of the seeds shall be changed. That player should take the relevant place and the lowest seed become an unseeded player. The referee has the option of making a new draw instead.

7.3.3. If the omitted player would be unseeded, and byes exist in the first round against unseeded players, the unseeded entry should replace one of these byes to be decided by lot. If only seeded players are receiving byes the additional entry shall be placed against the lowest seed receiving a bye.

7.3.4. If no byes exist in the first round, and there have been no withdrawals up to the time of the discovery of the omission, a preliminary round shall be played between the omitted player and one of the unseeded players in the draw, drawn by lot.

7.4. DIVISION OF EVENTS INTO TWO CLASSES

7.4.1. When the entries for any event at an approved Tournament are 32 or more in number, the Committee may divide the event into classes, with separate prizes for each class, subject to the condition that any title attached to the event shall be allocated to Class 1 and that the entry form for the Tournament announces that the Committee reserves the right to avail themselves of the provisions of this Regulation.

7.4.2. In all events the entries to be included in Class 1 shall be selected by the Committee as being in their opinion the best in the event, having taken into account International, National & Provincial rankings and ITN. Entries should be sorted by main draw, qualifying draw etc in TPP within 24 hours of closing date.

7.5 SCORE IN A GAME

7.5.1 The Rules of Tennis recognise two methods to score in a game, the Advantage Game and the No Advantage Game.

7.5.2 The recommended format in 10 & Under matches is 2 short sets with a deciding Match Tie-Break at one set all.

7.5.3 Under normal circumstances, when using normal sets, a player should not be scheduled to play more than two singles and one doubles match in a day. If short sets are being used, the maximum shall be three singles and one doubles.

7.6 PLAYING OF ADVANTAGE, TIE BREAK OR SHORT SET

7.6.1 In Categorised events from Irish Championships to Category 4 events only tie-break sets (in accordance with the Rules of Tennis) shall be played. These tournaments will qualify for Irish Ranking Points.

7.6.2 In handicap events at official tournaments, advantage sets shall be played with the exception that, if weather conditions are adverse and only for the purpose of enabling the programme to be completed within the advertised time, the committee may order the best of three short sets or alternatively, one advantage set. A short set is decided when one or other of the players first wins six games.

7.7. ALTERNATIVE SCORING METHODS

7.7.1. Advantage sets:

The first player/team who wins six games wins the set, provided there is a margin of two games over the opponent. If necessary the set should continue until this margin is achieved.

- 7.7.2. Tie-Break sets:
The first player/team who wins six games wins that set, provided there is a margin of two games over the opponent. If the score reaches six games all, a tiebreak game shall be played.
- 7.7.3. Short sets:
The first player/team who wins four games (or six if set started at 2 all instead of 0-0), provided there is a margin of two games over the opponent. If the score reaches four (or reaches six if started at 2 all) games all, a tiebreak game shall be played.
- 7.7.4. Deciding Match Tie-break (first to 10 points):
When the score in a match is one set all, a Match tie-break shall be played to decide the match. This Match Tie-Break replaces the final set. The player/team who first wins 10 points shall win this Match Tie-Break and the match, provided there is a margin of two points. This Match Tie-break shall be counted as a set won or lost by 1 game to 0. The score should be recorded as in the example: 3-6, 6-0, [10-2].
- 7.7.5. "No-Ad" scoring:
If both players/teams have won three points each, the score is deuce and a deciding point shall be played. The receiver shall choose whether to receive the service from the right or the left of the court. In doubles, the players on the receiving team cannot change positions to receive this deciding point. In mixed doubles, the player of the same gender as the server shall receive the deciding point; the players of the receiving team cannot change positions to receive the deciding point.

7.8. PROCEDURES IN CASE OF ADVERSE CONDITIONS:

- 7.8.1. The Referees shall have the authority, in adverse conditions, to shorten best of five set matches to best of three sets, to shorten best of three sets matches to one of the alternative scoring methods, but preferably only for entire rounds of each event.
- 7.8.2. The composition of a match should not be changed after it has started other than in exceptional circumstances.
- 7.8.3. A match in which play has been suspended shall, if possible, be resumed on the same court, unless the Referee deems it necessary to change to a different court surface.
- 7.8.4. The score at the time of the suspension of a match shall stand upon resumption.
- 7.8.5. If a tournament is significantly affected by adverse conditions, the Referee may decide that matches shall be reduced as follows:
- 7.8.5.1. Consolation events reduced to one of the abbreviated scoring formats.
 - 7.8.5.2. Consolation events cancelled.
 - 7.8.5.3. Doubles events reduced to one of the abbreviated scoring formats.
 - 7.8.5.4. Doubles events cancelled.
 - 7.8.5.5. Singles events reduced to one of the abbreviated scoring formats.
 - 7.8.5.6. If a round of an event has started other than in exceptional circumstances, the whole round should be completed using the same scoring method. Then, alternative/reduced scoring may be introduced.
 - 7.8.5.7. Short sets with a deciding match tie-break is the briefest abbreviated format recommended.
 - 7.8.5.8. If an event has to be abandoned, for the purpose of Player Ranking Points, players will receive loser points for the next round.

7.9. HANDICAP MATCHES

The provision regarding owed and received odds shall be on the basis set forth in 8.5.

SECTION 8: APPENDICES

- 8.1. **QUALIFYING DRAWS AND MAIN DRAWS** (as used in Tennis Europe Junior Tour Tournaments)
- 8.2.1. DEFINITIONS:
- 8.2.1.1. Direct acceptances:
Players accepted directly into the main draw shall be selected by the tournament committee who shall consider in first instance international, national and provincial rankings. Consideration, in the second instance, shall also be given to any other information available to the committee from recent results.

- 8.2.1.2. Qualifier Players:
Players included in the draw as a result of their success in the qualifying competition.
- 8.2.1.3. Wild cards:
Wild Cards may be seeded and must be named at the time the draw is made. Wild Cards who withdraw or default may not be replaced with new Wild Cards after the draw is made. The next eligible player on the alternate list shall fill any such vacancy, or if the qualifying competition has commenced, the eligible Lucky Loser, drawn and placed at the same time as the qualifiers, shall fill it. The qualifying competition commences when the first ball of the first qualifying match is struck. No player who has signed in for and been accepted into the qualifying of the tournament may be named as a wild card after the qualifying competition has commenced. A tournament may not offer a wild card or accept the entry from any player who has either accepted a wild card or been committed by an entry to another tournament in the same week.
- 8.2.1.4. Lucky losers:
Players who have lost in the final of the Qualifying Competition or, if more lucky losers are required, those players who have lost in the previous qualifying round.
- 8.2.1.5. Alternates:
Players who are not accepted into the main draw and/or qualifying. Vacancies in the main draw shall be filled by players from the qualifying acceptance list up until the time that the qualifying has started. Once the qualifying has started, vacancies in the main draw may only be filled by lucky losers. It is each player's responsibility to contact the appropriate entry authority regarding his/her status. If a player does not officially withdraw from an event (in writing or by telex or facsimile) and moves into qualifying or main draw, he/she will be penalized under the Code of Conduct if he/she does not play.
- 8.2.1.6. On-site alternates:
Players who appear at the tournament site at their own risk to fill a possible vacancy. In order to be eligible as an on-site alternate, a player must have completed an official entry form and must personally sign-in with the Referee on site.
- 8.2.1.7. Special Exempts:
Players who cannot appear in the Qualifying of a tournament because they are competing on the day that the Qualifying Competition begins in another "Qualified Tournament" who apply for and receive exemption from the Qualifying as herein after provided. A qualified tournament is the singles event of another Tennis Ireland sanctioned Tournament of same or Higher Category, ITF/Tennis Europe Junior Circuit tournament, an ITF Women's Circuit / WTA Tour Tournament or an ITF Men's Circuit / ATP.
The Tournament Committee will allocate Special Exempt positions and shall be the final authority in this instance.

8.2.2. MAKING A QUALIFYING DRAW IN SECTIONS:

- 8.2.2.1. If the qualifying draw is made in sections the winner of each section shall be given a place in the main draw.
- 8.2.2.2. If four (4) qualifiers are required, there shall be four (4) sections; six (6) qualifiers, six (6) sections; and so on.
- 8.2.2.3. The draw shall be seeded and the selection of seeds shall be consistent with the criteria used for the main draw. Each section shall have a maximum of two seeded players/teams.
- 8.2.2.4. The first seed shall be placed at the top of each section; the second seed shall be placed at the top of the second section and so on until all sections have (1) seed on the top line of each section. The remaining seeds shall be drawn as one group. The first drawn shall be placed on the bottom line of the first section, the second drawn shall be placed on the bottom line of the section and so on until all sections have (1) seed on the bottom line of each section.

8.2.3. ACCEPTANCE OF QUALIFIERS INTO MAIN DRAW:

- 8.2.3.1. Once the qualifying competition has begun, only those players who ultimately qualify and lucky losers may be accepted into the main draw.
- 8.2.3.2. The qualifying competition commences when the first ball of the first qualifying match is struck.

8.3. **THE RATED DRAW**

- 8.3.1. The Rated draw is the only approved method by which a tournament can bring the seeds forward in an event.
- 8.3.2. In this method, the seeds are not included in the draw but are drawn in the usual way for specific positions in a later round. The main draw is performed in the normal way in their absence.
- 8.3.3. If a tournament uses the Rated draw the number of seeds will be as follows:

12 plus entries:	4 seeds
24 plus entries:	8 seeds
48 plus entries:	16 seeds

- 8.3.4. The Entry Form should inform competitors which events will be played under a Rated Draw.

- 8.3.5. Any query in relation to the wording on an entry form or how to do a Rated draw should be referred to the Competitions Committee of Tennis Ireland.

8.4. **RULES FOR UNDER 8, 9 AND 10S TOURNAMENTS (Tennis10s)**

Duration - Ideally a 1 or 2 Day Event

Gender - Males & Females may compete in the same events

- 8.4.1. All Under 8, Under 9 and Under 10 competitions are to be played on a modified court : Under 8: 11x5.5m (36x16ft) Under 9: 18x6.5m (60x21ft) Under 10: full size court
- 8.4.2. Players must be 7 or under (U8), 8 (U9) or 9 (U10) on the 31st of December of the previous year, i.e. a player born in 2006 (9 on the 31st December 2015) will qualify to play U10 in 2016.
- 8.4.3. With modified rackets appropriate to the height of the child.
- 8.4.4. With modified ball density:
- Red spot for U8s
 - Orange spot for U9s, and
 - Green spot for Under 10s.
- 8.4.5. With the appropriate competition Format that allows multi matches:
- U8 and U9 competition must be run with a Team Format
 - U10 competition must be organized on an individual basis using the format outlined below under the heading **Formats:**
 - Round Robin
 - World Cup
 - Feed in (Continuous Feed-In -16- in Tennis Tournament Planner –TTP- software)
 - Play back draws (Compass -8, 16 & 32- in TTP)

If the entries for an U8 or U9 event are less than 10 players, organizers may follow the format for U10 events
Download free competition formats at tennisplayandstay.com/competitions

- 8.4.6. With a modified scoring system:
- 1 match tiebreak to 7 or 10
 - Best of 3 match tie breaks to 7
 - Best of 3 tie breaks (each tie break up to 10 points).
 - 1 short set (1st to 4 games)
 - Best of 3 short sets (1st to 4 games)
 - Short sets commencing at 2 games all and first to six games with a tiebreak (to 7) if the score is 5-5.
 - Tiebreak or champions tiebreak instead of a 3rd set
 - No ad scoring (play 1 game point at deuce)
 - A combination of these

Please note: Due to time constraints Competition Organizers may feel the need to tailor the scoring system to suit the situation.

Modified scoring systems are now part of the ITFs rules of tennis.

- 8.4.7. No prize money should be given in Under 8, Under 9 or Under 10 Tournaments.

Passport System

Tennis Ireland may grant players with extensive experience in competition **and** who have achieved the technical capacities set out in the fundamental phase of the Tennis Ireland long term player development pathway at under 8, under 9 and under 10 level a passport to compete in competitions at Under 9, Under 10 and Under 12 level.

Players are subject to the following pre-requisites before a Player Passport can be granted:

1. The player attends the inter regional sessions organized by the Tennis Ireland Technical staff and or

2. The Regional Coach is of the opinion that the child is ready for the progression and makes a recommendation to the Technical Director of Tennis Ireland.

Only players holding a Tennis Ireland passport are allowed to play on a court size above the one related to their age.

All other players shall only be accepted in events played on the correct size court and using the right ball for their age (See 8.4.2 and 8.4.5)

A Template for the Entry Forms for Tennis10 Events is available for download from Tennis Ireland and Branches websites.

U10 Format

Duration - Ideally a 1 or 2 Day Event

Gender - Males & Females can compete in the same events

Stage 1 -

Must be a Round Robin and depending on the entries, the boxes are divided into a maximum of 4 players per group

Scoring should be an appropriate scoring system from the list above to suit the entries - For example, first to 6 commencing at 2-2. No advantage applies. Every game won counts as a point.

Stage 2 - The highest scoring player from each group is placed in a new group with a minimum of 3 players.

The second highest scoring player from each group is placed in an additional group. If the numbers, however, are not sufficient, you should put the highest and second highest scoring players together.

Depending on the number of entries, organisers may need to further regroup the participants involving the third and fourth highest scoring players.

The main objective for the organisers is to find quality match opportunities for all players.

Organisers need to ensure that every player positioned in their new group play a maximum of two matches with two other players in the group.

See "Play and Stay" for other options.

Important

All players need rest periods throughout the day. Ideally, this can be guaranteed by breaking the day into two periods with an hour's rest for lunch midway through the allotted time.

Doubles

All organisers should do their best to ensure that all competitors have the opportunity to play at least one doubles game throughout the day. This could be organised as the last round of matches.

Sanctions

Any Tournament which fails to apply the rules for Tennis 10's will not be included in the ranking points for that particular week in all events from u12's - to u 18's

8.5 HANDICAP REGULATIONS

8.5.1. RECEIVED ODDS

Odds are received in each group of 6 games of a set in the first place in the earliest possible even game; that is to say, a receiver of one-sixth receives a point in the second game of each group of 6; a receiver of two sixths in the second and fourth games; a receiver of three-sixths in the second, fourth and sixth games.

When the even games are exhausted odds are then received in the earliest possible odd games; that is to say, a receiver of four-sixths receives his points over and above a receiver of three-sixths in the first game of each group of 6 and a receiver of five-sixths in the first and third games. The position in which points are received are shown in the following table:

	1 st Game	2 nd Game	3 rd Game	4 th Game	5 th Game	6 th Game
1/6 of 15		15				
2/6 of 15		15		15		
3/6 of 15		15		15		15
4/6 of 15	15	15		15		15
5/6 of 15	15	15	15	15		15

8.5.1.1. A player receiving four-sixths of fifteen receives nothing in the third and fifth games and fifteen in the first, second, fourth and sixth games of a set.

8.5.1.2. The table is not carried beyond the sixth game, as in the next and every succeeding six games the odds recur in the same positions.

8.5.1.3. The above odds may be received in addition to other received odds.

Fifteen (e.g. + 15.0) is one point received at the beginning of every game of a set.
Thirty (e.g. + 30.0) is two points received at the beginning of every game of a set.
Forty (e.g. + 40.0) is three points received at the beginning of every game of a set

8.5.2. OWED ODDS

Odds are owed in each group of six games of a set, in the first place, in the latest possible odd game. That is to say, an owner of one-sixth owes a point in the fifth game of each group of six; an owner of two-sixths in the fifth and third games; and an owner of three-sixths in the fifth, third and first games.

When the odd games are exhausted; odds are then owed in the latest possible even games. This is to say an owner of four-sixths owes his / hers points, over and above an owner of three-sixths, in the sixth game of each group of six; and an owner of five-sixths, in the sixth and fourth games. The position in which points are owed are shown in the following table:

	1 st Game	2 nd Game	3 rd Game	4 th Game	5 th Game	6 th Game
1/6 of 15					15	
2/6 of 15			15		15	
3/6 of 15	15		15		15	
4/6 of 15	15		15		15	15
5/6 of 15	15		15	15	15	15

8.5.2.1. A player owing two-sixths of fifteen would owe fifteen in the third and fifth games and nothing in the first, second, fourth and sixth games of a set.

8.5.2.2. The table is not carried beyond the sixth game, as in the next and every succeeding six games the odds recur in the same position.

8.5.2.3. The above odds may be owed in addition to other owed odds.

Fifteen (e.g. + 15.0) is one point received at the beginning of every game of a set.
Thirty (e.g. + 30.0) is two points received at the beginning of every game of a set.
Forty (e.g. + 40.0) is three points received at the beginning of every game of a set.

8.6. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The provision of this Code shall apply to official Tennis Ireland Tournaments and Events.

8.6.1. **CLOTHING**

8.6.1.1. **Unacceptable Attire: -**

Clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire shall be worn and as set out in the Prospectus.

8.6.1.2. **Visible Identification: -**

No visible identification shall be permitted on a player's clothing, products or equipment except as stated in the Regulations.

8.6.2. **ETIQUETTE**

8.6.2.1. **Leaving the court: -**

A player shall not leave the court area during a match (including warm-up) without the permission of the Umpire or Referee.

8.6.2.2. **Failure to complete match: -**

A player must complete a match in progress unless (s) he is reasonably unable to do so.

8.6.2.3. **Ceremonies: -**

A player participating in the finals of a tournament must attend and participate in the finals ceremonies, unless reasonably unable to do so.

8.6.2.4. **Media: -**

Unless injured and physically unable to appear, a player must be available to the Media within 30 minutes of the end of any match, whether the player be winner or loser.

8.6.2.5. **Scoreboard: -**

Players must change the score on a scoreboard, when provided and if nobody else is assigned the task, at each change of the ends. If the scoreboard is placed at either end of the court it will be the responsibility of the player or pair approaching that end after a change of ends to update the score.

8.6.3. **PUNCTUALITY**

8.6.3.1. Players must be ready to play their match at the designated time and / or in accordance with the order of play.

8.6.3.2. Any player not ready to play 15 minutes after his / her match has been called, shall be scratched from the event, unless the Referee, after consideration of all relevant circumstances, decides not so to do.

8.6.4. **CONDUCT**

8.6.4.1. **Best efforts: -**

A player shall use his / her best efforts to win a match.

8.6.4.2. **Unreasonable delays: -**

Play should be continuous and a player shall not unreasonably delay a match for any cause. At all times the Receiver must play to the reasonable pace of the Server and must be ready to receive when the Server is ready to serve.

The time between the ball going out of play at the end of one point to the time the ball is served for the next point shall not exceed 30 seconds. Where ballpersons are used in Official Tournaments, this time shall not exceed 20 seconds.

8.6.4.2.1 When changing ends, a maximum of 90 seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of one game to the time the ball is served for the first point of the next game.

8.6.4.2.2 At the conclusion of each set, there shall be a set break of a maximum of 120 seconds from the moment that the ball goes out of play at the end of the set to the time the ball is first struck for the first point of the next set.

8.6.4.2.3 At the conclusion of the first game in each set, and during a tiebreak, play shall be continuous and players shall change ends without a rest period.

8.6.4.2.4 The first violation of this section shall be penalised by a warning and each subsequent violation shall be penalised by the assessment of a point penalty.

8.6.4.3. **Audible Obscenity: -**

Players shall not use an audible obscenity within the precincts of the tournament site.

8.6.4.4. **Coaching: -**

Players shall not receive coaching during a tournament match. Communications of any kind, audible or visible, between a player and any other person shall be construed as coaching.

Players shall also prohibit their coaches (1) from using audible obscenity within the precincts of the tournament site, (2) from making obscene gestures of any kind within the precincts of the tournament site, (3) from verbally abusing any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site, (4) from physically abusing any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site and (5) from giving, making, issuing, authorising or endorsing any public statement within the precincts of the tournament site having, or designed to have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests of the tournament and/or of the officiating thereof. Violation of this Section shall subject a player to three (3) suspension points for each violation. In addition, if such violation occurs during a match (including the warm-up), the player shall be penalised in accordance with the Point Penalty Schedule hereinafter set forth. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament, or are singularly egregious a single violation of this section shall also constitute the Major Offence of "Aggravated Behaviour" and shall be subject to the additional penalties hereinafter set forth therefore and the Referee may order the Coach to be removed from the site of a match or the precincts of the tournament site and upon his failure to comply with such order may declare an immediate default of such player. For the purposes of this Rule, a "coach" shall also include any representative and/or relative of a player.

8.6.4.5. **Visible Obscenity: -**

Players shall not make obscene gestures of any kind within the precincts of the tournament site.

8.6.4.6. **Abuse of Ball: -**

Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger, hit, kick or throw a tennis ball within the precincts of the tournament site.

8.6.4.7. **Abuse of Rackets or Equipment: -**

Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger, hit, kick or throw a racket or other equipment within the precincts of the tournament site.

8.6.4.8. **Verbal Abuse: -**

Players shall not at any time verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site.

8.6.4.9. **Physically Abuse: -**

Players shall not at any time physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site.

8.6.4.10. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct: -**

Players shall at all time conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others.

8.6.5. **DISCIPLINE**

8.6.5.1. The Penalty Point Schedule to be used for violations of 8.6.4.1. and 8.6.4.3. to 8.6.4.10 is:

First Offence	Warning	1 Penalty Point
Second Offence	Point	2 Penalty Points
Third Offence	Game	3 Penalty Points
Fourth Offence	Default	4 Penalty Points

8.6.5.2. The Disciplinary sanctions under the Penalty Point Schedule may differ from one Provincial Branch to another, but it is designed to be an automatic procedure if a player attains or exceeds 4 penalty points in up to 4 separate matches under this schedule.

8.6.5.3. When a penalty has been imposed under the Code of Conduct the offending player will be reported to the relevant Provincial Branch and to Tennis Ireland.

8.6.5.4. The Chair Umpire or Referee in a Tennis Ireland tournament may declare a default for either a single violation of this code or pursuant to the Penalty Point Schedule.

8.6.5.5. If a player is defaulted during a match for conduct reasons, he shall be defaulted from all other events at that tournament.

8.6.6. **AGGRAVATED BEHAVIOUR**

8.6.6.1. One violation that is flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament.

8.6.6.2. A series of two or more violations of this code within a 12 month period which singularly do not constitute “Aggravated Behaviour” but when viewed together establish a pattern of conduct that is collectively detrimental or injurious to Tennis Ireland sanctioned tournaments, to be decided upon by the Provincial Council or Discipline Committee of Tennis Ireland.

8.6.6.3. Violations of 8.6.5. shall subject a player to a fine and / or suspension from play in Tennis Ireland sanctioned tournaments or events.

8.6.7. **INTEGRITY OF THE GAME**

8.6.7.1. If a player has at any time behaved in a manner severely damaging to the reputation of the sport, he may be deemed by virtue of such behaviour to have engaged in conduct contrary to the integrity of the Game of Tennis and be in violation of this Section.

Violation of 8.6.4. shall subject a player to a fine and / or suspension from play in Tennis Ireland sanctioned tournaments or events.

8.7 **Withdrawals Offences and Code of Conduct Violations**

WITHDRAWING FROM A SANCTIONED TENNIS IRELAND TOURNAMENT

Ranking Points:

If a player:

- Withdraws from an event after having started a match in that event;
- fails to appear at an event ready and prepared to play;
- retires during an event and/or gives a walk-over during an event;

he/she will lose ALL ranking points obtained in that event.

If a player withdraws from one event to be able to play in an overlapping event (even if the overlap is two days or less) he/she will lose ALL Ranking points from the TWO events.

Penalty Points:

A player who:

- (a) Withdraws from the competition after the Withdrawal deadline specified in the competition information; or
- (b) fails to appear at the competition venue ready and prepared to play in his/her relevant matches without having Withdrawn; will incur the following automatic Withdrawal Points:

Withdrawal from the competition after the withdrawal deadline specified	2
Failing to appear at the competition for each match without having withdrawn	5

Explanatory notes:

If a Player is not ready to play within 15 minutes after his/her match has been called, that Player may be deemed to have failed to appear by the Referee and, if so, will incur five Withdrawal Points. In practice, it is anticipated that Referees will be pragmatic and, before deeming that a Player has failed to appear, will consider all relevant factors including, for example, whether the Player has made any attempt to notify the Referee that he/she will be arriving late and of the time when he/she is likely to be ready to play; whether the Player’s match can be easily rescheduled without disruption to the competition; whether the Referee is satisfied that the Player has done all he/she reasonably can to be ready to play on time; whether the Player’s notification should in fact be treated as a Withdrawal.

A player who withdraws after having started a match in the event will:

- Incur two withdrawal points, and
- Will lose ALL ranking points in that event

A player who fails to appear at an event without having notified the referee that he/she is withdrawing will:

- Incur five withdrawal points, and
- Will lose ALL ranking points in that event

Exceptions

1. Where a doubles pair withdraws and it is made clear to the Referee at the time of the withdrawal or failure to appear that it is solely due to one of the players (in which case only that player will incur withdrawal points and lose of ranking points).
2. A player who retires during a match due to sickness or injury
3. A player who withdraws from a competitions as a result of being suspended

Appeal

A player may only challenge the imposition of Withdrawal penalty points:

1. Where such imposition was a result of the player having been wrongly identified as the offending player; and/or
2. Where the player can show exceptional circumstances.

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

As per Tennis Ireland Rules and Regulations (Rule 8.6.5.1) the penalty point schedule should be used for violations of:

	Applied during the match	Penalty Points
First Offence	Warning	1
Second Offence	Point	2
Third Offence	Game	3
Fourth Offence	Default	4

- Best efforts (8.6.4.1.)
- Unreasonable delays (8.6.4.2.)
- Audible obscenity (8.6.4.3.)
- Coaching (8.6.4.4.)
- Visible obscenity (8.6.4.5.)
- Abuse of ball (8.6.4.6.)
- Abuse of rackets or equipment (8.6.4.7.)
- Verbal Abuse (8.6.4.8.)
- Physical abuse (8.6.4.9.)
- Unsportsmanlike Conduct (8.6.4.10)

Any player dissatisfied with a decision by the Tournament Organizing Committee and/or Referee may appeal the decision according to:

- Rule 5.11.1 of Tennis Ireland Rules and Regulations <http://www.tennisireland.ie/userfiles/File/Database/84-TIRules2013.pdf>, and
- Tennis Ireland Complaint, Objection and Disciplinary Rules and Procedures <http://www.tennisireland.ie/userfiles/File/Database/84-Disciplinary%20Code%20Final%20Version.pdf>

Players incurring Penalty Points will be notified by e-mail and the offence will be recorded in their tournament software account.

SUSPENSION

When a Player accumulates ten Penalty Points within any rolling 12-month period he/she will receive an automatic suspension of:

1. three weeks, for a first application; or
2. four weeks, for the second application in relation to the same 12-month period;
3. five weeks, for the third application in relation to the same 12-month period; and
4. six weeks, for subsequent applications in relation to the same 12-month period

The player will be notified by email including information on the appeal process and suspended from entering any tournaments during that period.

8.9. WITHDRAWAL FORM

Please complete this form and return it to your Branch within 72 hours of the completion of the tournament.

Tournament Name: _____ Date: _____

Player's Name: _____ TI ID: _____

Player was:

No show: Withdrawal: Injured Sick Other: _____

Player withdraw after withdrawal deadline: During Tournament

As referee, were you satisfied that the withdrawal was genuine: Yes No

Player's Name: _____ TI ID: _____

Player was:

No show: Withdrawal: Injured Sick Other: _____

Player withdraw after withdrawal deadline: During Tournament

As referee, were you satisfied that the withdrawal was genuine: Yes No

Player's Name: _____ TI ID: _____

Player was:

No show: Withdrawal: Injured Sick Other: _____

Player withdraw after withdrawal deadline: During Tournament

As referee, were you satisfied that the withdrawal was genuine: Yes No

Player's Name: _____ TI ID: _____

Player was:

No show: Withdrawal: Injured Sick Other

Player withdraw after withdrawal deadline: During Tournament

As referee, were you satisfied that the withdrawal was genuine: Yes No

Tournament Referee: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

8.10. PRIZE FUND DISTRIBUTION

Prize fund 100% to be divided equally between Men's and Ladies' events distributed accordingly to the following percentages:

1. 50% for Men's event:
 - Winner 20%
 - Beaten finalist 10%
 - Beaten semi-finalists 5% (x2)
 - Beaten quarter-finalists 2.5% (x4)
2. 50% for Ladies' event:
 - Winner 20%
 - Beaten finalist 10%
 - Beaten semi-finalists 5% (x2)
 - Beaten quarter-finalists 2.5% (x4)

EXAMPLE:

Total prize fund for singles: € 1000.00 or € 5000.00

Total prize fund € 1000.00	Men €	Ladies €
	500	500
Winner	200	200
Runner-Up	100	100
Semi-finalist	50	50
Semi-finalist	50	50
Quarter-finalist	25	25
Quarter-finalist	25	25
Quarter-finalist	25	25
Quarter-finalist	25	25

Total prize fund €5000.00	Men €	Ladies €
Total	2500	2500
Winner	1000	1000
Runner-Up	500	500
Semi-finalist	250	250
Semi-finalist	250	250
Quarter-finalist	125	125
Quarter-finalist	125	125
Quarter-finalist	125	125
Quarter-finalist	125	125

8.11. Guidelines on use of Photographic and Filming Equipment at Official Events and Practice Sessions.

1. Amateurs

Amateur photographers /film / video operators wishing to record an event or practice session should seek accreditation with the event organiser or leader of the practice session and have justifiable reason for wanting to video / photograph children.

During competitions or practice sessions, children must not be photographed or filmed without the permission and the expressed permission of one of their parents or person acting for the parent. A record should be kept of any permission granted.

2. Professionals

Professional photographers /film / video operators wishing to record an event or practice session should seek accreditation with the event organisers by producing their professional identification for the details to be recorded and have justifiable reason for wanting to video / photograph children. A record should be kept of accreditation.

3. Camera Phones

Because camera phones can transmit an image discreetly and remotely, Junior Tournament organisers are advised that they should not be used under any circumstances on Junior Tournament sites.

4. Publication

This information should be published prominently in event programmes and should be announced over the public address system prior to the start of an event.

Recommended wording:

“In line with the recommendations in the Tennis Ireland Code of Ethics, the promoters of this event request that any person wishing to engage in any video, zoom or close range photography should register their details with the organisers. On no account should children be photographed or filmed without their permission and the permission of their parents. Camera phones cannot under any circumstances be used on the tournament site.”

5. Use of video as a coaching aid

Video equipment can be used as a legitimate coaching aid. However, permission should first be obtained from the player and the player's parent / carer.

Anyone concerned about any photography taking place at events or training sessions should contact the organisers and ask them to deal with the matter.

8.12. JUNIOR TOURNAMENT CATEGORIES & CATEGORY REQUIREMENTS:

Tournaments are given a Category at the end of the year based on the tournament entries in the previous season. Tournament Categories are published in www.tennisireland.ie.

Players are guaranteed the points of the published Tournament Category.

8.13 JUNIOR IRISH RANKING POINTS:

Where entries in an event are 3 or less the points shall be dropped a level eg a Cat 3 tournament will drop to a cat 4 for this event (other events will keep the allocated category).

2017 Open Tournaments Ranking Points

Tour		National			Provincial	Regional		Phoenix		
Category	Irish Open	National Indoors	National	1	2	3	4	1	2	
MAIN DRAW	Winner	1500	1000	750	400	250	100	65	40	20
	Runner-Up	1120	750	560	300	190	75	50	30	15
	SF or 4th	825	550	405	220	135	55	35	20	10
	QF or 8th	450	300	250	135	80	30	20	10	4
	Last 16	300	200	125	65	40	15	10	4	2
	Last 32	115	75	50	25	15	6	4		
	Last 64	60	40	30	15	10	4			
	Last 128	40	25	20	10	4				
	Last 256	15	15	10	4	2				

PLATE	Winner			40	25	15	10	4	4	2
	Runner-Up			25	15	10	4	2	2	1
	SF			15	10	4	2	1	1	
	QF			10	4	2	1			
	Last 16			4	2	1				

SF= Semifinal QF= Quarterfinal

In the case of matches for positions not being played points for the lowest position will be awarded.

2017 Matchplay Ranking points

Main Draws	National	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5	
	1	750	400	250	100	65	40
	2	560	300	190	75	50	30
	3	480	260	160	65	42	15
	4	405	220	135	55	35	20
	5	360	200	120	50	30	18
	6	325	180	105	45	25	15
	7	290	155	90	35	23	13
	8	250	135	80	30	20	10
	9	225	115	70	25	15	8
	10	200	95	60	20	10	6
	11	175	75	50	15	8	4
	12	150	55	40	10	5	2
	13	125	40	30	8	4	1
	14	100	25	20	6	2	
	15	75	15	10	4	1	

MATCHPLAYS (Standard Continuous feed-in above, Elimination with continuous feed-in consolation below)

- National Match-plays: National
- Leinster: Provincial Category 1, Regional Category 2, qualifying Category 3, prequalifying Category 4
- Munster, Ulster and Connacht: Provincial Category 2, Regional Category 2, qualifying Category 4

SF=semifinal QF=quarterfinal n.a.=not applicable

Please note that for Winter & Spring Matchplays Series ONLY the HIGHEST POINTS achieved BETWEEN the qualifying, provincial & national matchplays count

MD=Main Draw C=Consolation Draw

International Tournaments

Points earned by players in ITF-18 and Tennis Europe tournaments' Main Draws will be converted into Irish ranking points according to the following conversion factors:

Points for International Tournaments 2016

ITF - 18	Tournament Grade	Main Draw					Qualifying Rounds			
		Winner	Runner Up	SF	QF	R16	R32	Won 3 Matches	Won 2 Matches	Won 1 Match
	1	150	100	80	60	30	20	360	240	120
	2	100	75	50	30	20	10	300	195	100
	3	60	45	30	20	15	7.5	225	150	75
	4	40	30	20	15	10	5	160	105	55
	5	30	20	15	10	5	2.5	120	60	30
	Full Qualifying Round	Points x 60								
	Without Full Qualifying Round	Points x 60				Points x 30				

****Full Qualify Round = Every player who qualifies, has won a match to qualify****

Tennis Europe	Tournament Grade	Main Draw					Qualifying Rounds			
		Winner	Runner Up	SF	QF	R16	R32	Won 3 Matches	Won 2 Matches	Won 1 Match
	1	120	100	75	50	30	20	225	150	75
	2	80	65	50	30	20	15	180	110	55
	3	60	50	30	20	15	10	120	60	30
	U14	TE Points x 20				TE Points x 10*				
	U16	TE Points x 10				TE Points x 5*				