

Team Ireland Tennis Programme Guidelines



March 2020

Team Ireland Tennis Programme

Scheme of Assistance for Elite Irish Tennis Players

1. Introduction

The cost of training and international travel is clearly recognised as a barrier to Ireland producing Tennis Players capable of competing at the highest levels of the sport.

For several years, Tennis Ireland has provided support for players through the provision of training and coaching services at the National Tennis Centre. While this service was welcomed by the chosen players, there was regular criticism of the organisation from players not selected or from those who chose to train elsewhere and therefore did not benefit from this support. There have been regular calls from players and their families for Tennis Ireland to provide alternative support for players seeking to make a career in the sport.

Given the budgetary constraints in which the organisation operates, the level of support requested from players or their supporters will likely never be able to be provided, however, there is recognition that some funding support should be available from Tennis Ireland and that it should be allocated via a clear, transparent and benchmarked programme to players with the proven potential to compete on the international tours and compete for Ireland in Davis / Fed Cup or other international events such as the Olympic Games, Grand Slam events etc.

To this end, a Programme be established by Tennis Ireland in order to provide ringfenced funding and other supports to assist Irish Tennis Players, both male and female, in the early stages of their professional careers or indeed looking to transition to become established players on the major international tours.

The programme is based on the Golfing Union of Ireland's Team Ireland Golf Programme which was established in 1999 by the then Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation to assist Irish golfers, both male and female, in the early stages of their professional careers on tour and to become established players on the major international tours.

The programme which is known as the "Team Ireland Tennis Programme" will be overseen by a panel specifically established to oversee the operation of the Scheme and to consider applications received under the Scheme.

It has been envisaged that this panel would be made up of a maximum of 2 representatives from Tennis Ireland, a nominee from Sport Ireland, the International Club of Ireland and two members of the business community who have an affinity with Tennis.

Grants from the scheme will be funded by allocations from Tennis Ireland and Sport Ireland and it is hoped that additional funds will be raised from the private sector through sponsorship or philanthropy as the scheme develops.

In 2020, an allocation of up to €60,000 will be made to the scheme. Any partner funding will be kept in designated accounts and restricted to use for the funding of grant allocations.

The initial allocation and any third-party funding allocated to the programme will not be available for general Tennis Ireland expenses or non-grant activities. Any unexpended amount at the end of the year will remain in the fund and be carried over the following year.

The expenses and resources required for the administration of the scheme will be separately met by Tennis Ireland.

An Appeals Committee will deal with any complaints from players regarding the decisions of the Team Ireland Tennis Programme Committee.

2. Objective of the Scheme

The objective of the Scheme is to provide support, both financial and non-financial, to selected young professional and amateur tennis players who have the potential and commitment to become established players successfully competing on the main international Professional Tours (ATP tour for men and WTA for women).

Players who are being supported by the Scheme, will be expected to show and maintain a reasonable level of progression in their performances on an annual basis. This level of progress will determine future funding decisions by the Committee. They will also be expected to make themselves available for Junior European Championships, Davis Cup or Federation Cup participation should they be selected.

3. Eligibility and Criteria

Tennis players, male or female, who meet the performance criteria as outlined, will be eligible to apply for assistance to the Programme. Applicants must provide evidence of a competition schedule, which will lead to becoming an established player on the ITF Junior Tour and on a pathway to represent Ireland at Junior Grand Slams, the ITF World Tennis Tour, the ATP Tour or the WTA Tour.

The Scheme will consist of four general categories for achievement of criteria;

TIER 1									
AGE	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24+
MEN	150 ITF ATP Point	125 ITF 1100 ATP	80 ITF 1000 ATP	700 ATP	550 ATP	400 ATP	300 ATP	250 ATP	200 ATP
WOMEN	150 ITF WTA Point	125 ITF 1100 WTA	80 ITF 1000 WTA	700 WTA	550 WTA	400 WTA	300 WTA	250 WTA	200 WTA
PROPOSED AWARD	Awards for Tier 1 can be from €5 - €12.5k and may include additional non financial support								

TIER 2									
AGE	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24+
MEN	300 ITF	200 ITF ATP Point	150 ITF ATP POINT	1000 ATP NCAA 25	750 ATP NCAA 25	750 ATP NCAA 25	650 ATP NCAA 25	700 ATP	700 ATP
WOMEN	300 ITF	200 ITF WTA Point	150 ITF WTA POINT	1000 WTA NCAA 25	750 WTA NCAA 25	750 WTA NCAA 25	650 WTA NCAA 25	700 WTA	700 WTA
PROPOSED AWARD LEVEL	Awards for Tier 2 can be up to €7.5k and / or may include non financial support								

TIER 3 (Doubles Only)									
AGE	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24+
MEN				650 ATP	500 ATP	400 ATP	350 ATP	250 ATP	150 ATP
WOMEN				650 WTA	500 WTA	400 WTA	350 WTA	250 WTA	150 WTA
PROPOSED AWARD LEVEL	Awards for Tier 3 can be up to 10k and / or may include non financial support								

Wheelchair Tennis - Men and Women

TIER	3	2	1
RANKING	ITF 175 - 101	ITF 100 - 76	ITF Top 75
PROPOSED AWARD	Awards for Tier 3 can be up to €12.5k and / or may include non financial support		

Exceptional circumstances

If a player has had a long term injury / illness (minimum of 3 months) during the year, or has missed a minimum of 3 months of a season then they must supply in writing with their application the following;

1. Details of the injury / issue including the full period missed; and
2. Medical / physio or other reports confirming the injury and / or reason for absence

The Committee will then consider the evidence and impact of the injury or issue and decide whether this factor will prevent the player from being supported.

4. Financial Support

Individual bursaries / grants will be provided to successful applicants to assist with out-of-pocket

expenses directly associated with all aspects of costs associated with participation on the relevant tour. (transportation, accommodation, food, coaching, equipment etc).

The assessment of the amount to be awarded in each case will be based on players meeting the criteria set out in Appendix A.

Players can only apply for funding if they meet the criteria outlined in Appendix A at the time of the application process.

Two payments of equal amounts will be made to successful candidates over the course of 12 months.

Payment 1

The first moiety will be paid 2 weeks after the submission of a successful application and the return of a signed Conditions of Offer Agreement.

Payment 2

The second moiety will be paid 6 months after the first payment has been sent to the successful applicant.

Certain documentation will need to be returned to the Team Ireland Committee in accordance with the above deadlines for payment. All grant recipients will be required to account for all items of expenditure by completing an official expenditure report at agreed intervals.

The scheme will consider mid-year (i.e. pre 1 July) applications should a player reach the prescribed targets however this is subject to funding being available and any grants will be paid out at 50% of the annual grant in a single moiety.

Any delay in returning documentation will lead to a delay in grants being paid.

5. Twelve-month Rule

Funding and support are not guaranteed in perpetuity. Players who are already part of the scheme will have their cases reviewed on annual basis.

It is understood that players who have received monies in a previous year may not have been able to reach the necessary criteria to receive funding the following year due to injuries, sickness or other unforeseen circumstances.

In conducting such a review, the Team Ireland Tennis Committee will consider the player's;

- Current playing status as a professional/amateur tennis player
- Ability to progress in professional tennis over the succeeding years
- Attitude to training and competition
- Willingness to represent Ireland on Davis Cup and Federation Cup or other international teams, if selected
- Willingness to promote the sport of tennis in Ireland. The player should make themselves available at least 4 times per year to give back to the sport within

- Ireland e.g. present prizes at tournaments, sponsor hits, parks tennis, etc
- The player must also compete in at least one domestic National standard tournament per year

6. Non-Financial Support

The Scheme may also provide successful applicants with access to other non – financial supports including;

- Access to the DCU Gym
- Access to the Tennis Ireland National Tennis Centre for training or hitting.
- Wild Card for Irish Open or other Pro Events held in Ireland (subject to availability)
- Personal Accident Insurance under the Tennis Ireland Insurance Scheme
- Access to training programmes or workshops organised by Tennis Ireland or Sport Ireland for Performance Athletes

The services will be coordinated by Tennis Ireland’s National Performance Coordinator.

7. Application Procedures

Application forms for the Scheme will be available from Tennis Ireland and Applicants are requested to:

- (i) Ensure that application forms are completed fully and accurately and that all the necessary information is supplied to include:
 - Draft of upcoming tournament schedule (6 months) based on information available
 - Coach and coaching programme
 - Training and fitness programme
 - Financial details
 - Statement outlining goals and objectives
- (ii) Ensure that they fulfil the criteria specified for the particular category.
- (iii) Give precise information in relation to rankings and previous performances.
- (iv) Completed Applications must be sent via email to lisa.murphy@tennisireland.ie by Wednesday April 1st 2020 at 5pm. The closing date will be strictly adhered to and late applications may not be accepted.

8. Selection Procedures

Following consideration of the applications received under the Scheme, the Team Ireland Tennis Committee will make decisions on the grants to be awarded.

In view of the level of funding available under the Scheme, it is intended to provide aid to a limited number of applicants only. All applicants will be informed in writing of the outcome of their application.

Details of the awards made under the Scheme will be published on www.tennisireland.ie

9. Payment of Awards

Payment of the awards will be made in two instalments by the Team Ireland Tennis Committee directly to the successful applicants and will be subject to providing:

- (a) Signed Form of Agreement
- (b) Bank Details
- (c) Expenditure reports with appropriate receipts, covering the value of the grant
- (d) Playing schedule
- (e) Photo evidence of logo wearing, as designated by the Team Ireland Tennis Committee

10. Appeals Process

Players may appeal decisions of the Team Ireland High Performance Committee made in respect of or under the Scheme regarding non-inclusion or the level of grant allocation. The appeal must be made on the appropriate Team Ireland Tennis Application Appeal Form, which will be available after the announcement of the awards.

Such appeals must be made by the player to the Secretary of the Appeals process who will be the Chief Executive of Tennis Ireland.

An independent panel may be set up and any decision of the panel in relation to such an appeal shall be final and binding, and no further appeal may arise there from.

11. Conditions of Participation in the Scheme

Participants in the Scheme will be bound by conditions of award outlined hereunder:

- Must be undertaking a current competition programme, the details of which must be submitted to the Team Ireland Tennis Programme at Tennis Ireland.
- Must compete as an Irish player (i.e. eligible to play in either David Cup or Federation Cup for Ireland) on the main International Tours or Tours for which

financial support is being provided.

- Provide details of all eligible expenditure with appropriate receipts when requesting grant instalments. Any player who fails to make a return of expenditure will not receive further grant payments or be considered for further support under the Scheme.
- Acknowledge the support of Tennis Ireland and the Team Ireland Tennis Programme in media interviews and articles.
- Agreement to represent Ireland in Davis Cup or Federation Cup ties
- Subscribe to anti-doping policies set out by Sport Ireland and abide by a drugs free philosophy.
- Subscribe to the policies set out in the ITF's Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP)
- Any breach of the rules or misconduct regarded by the Committee as incompatible with participation in the Scheme may result in the withdrawal of all or part of the financial support and/or access to services awarded under the Scheme.
- Agree to a maximum of 4 appearances (media, academy, community outreach etc.) throughout the 12 months in which support is provided.