



**YOUNG MASTERS, MASTERS & SUPER SENIOR
MASTERS
INTERPROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
RULES**

Purpose:

Tennis Ireland (TI) through the National Masters Committee strives to see the 4 Provinces field the most competitive Inter-provincial Masters Teams in Ireland while also supporting the other domestic Irish Masters Tennis circuit events and in particular the National Masters Events. The objective is to have the strongest possible fields competing in these events and use them as a stepping stone to the World Championships for the best players.

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**YOUNG MASTERS, MASTERS & SUPER SENIOR MASTERS
INTERPROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES**

1. The Inter-Provincial Tennis Championships (The Championships) shall take place between the Provinces of Ireland each year and will be played under the Rules of Tennis and the Rules and Regulations and Code of Conduct of Tennis Ireland.
2. The Championships will be divided into 3 events as follows:
 - Masters: (over 30, 35, 40, 45)
 - Masters: (over 50, 55, 60)
 - Masters: (over 65, 70, 75/80+)
3. The Championships shall be played on the following dates:
 - Masters (30, 35, 40, 45): 15th & 16th September
 - Masters (50, 55, 60): 22nd & 23rd September
 - Masters (65, 70, 75, 80): 14th & 15th May
4. No Player may compete in two separate Master Interprovincials.
5. All players must have a TI PIN and have a TI Tournament Software Account.
6. Each team in each event, shall consist of not less than 4 male and 4 female players, to be nominated in order of singles merit, together with a non-playing captain. For the Super Seniors event doubles pairings must be registered with the host province in order of merit and these pairings remain in place throughout the event.
7. The eligibility of a person for Provincial selection shall be determined by:
 - Province of Birth
 - Or
 - Place of permanent residence from 1st January in the year preceding the Championships
 - Or
 - In the case of Connacht any player at least one of whose parents or Grandparents was born in Connacht.
 - Or
 - Be a registered Member of a Tennis Club within the Province from 1st January in the year preceding the Championships. (over 12 months)
 - Or
 - Have lived in the Province for 10 years or more

A player is not eligible to play for a province if they have played for/Represented another province in the previous 3 calendar years.
8. Each event shall consist of the required number of matches, played on a Round Robin basis, between the competing Provinces as follows:

	Male	Female
7.1	No. 1 Singles	No. 1 Singles
7.2	No. 2 Singles	No. 2 Singles
7.3	Doubles	Doubles

*** 2 doubles only for 65 and over age groups**

9. The composition of a team for each tie, eg Over 35 Leinster versus Munster, may be varied at the discretion of the non-playing captain (or nominated Captain) save that in respect of Singles matches a team must adhere to the nominated order of merit as between the two Singles players from that Province. The Non-Playing Captain (or nominated team member) of each team may sit on court during a match and then may only communicate with their own player(s) at a change of ends.
10. A full list of the teams, nominated in order of merit for each event, shall be furnished to the Honorary Secretary of the host Province no later than 7 days preceding the commencement of the Championships. All teams to be published on TI software no later than 3 days prior to the event.
 - * any late changes to be notified prior to commencement of the event.
11. The team nominated for a specific tie, in each event, shall be furnished to the Referee no later than 15 minutes prior to the starting time designated for that tie. In each tie the No. 1 Men's Singles match must commence before the No.2 Men's Singles match and the No.1 Ladies Singles match must commence before the No.2 Ladies Singles match etc.(unless agreed between Provinces & Referee)
 - *For the 65 and over event the first doubles will be played first followed by 2nd doubles.
12. If either of the Singles players in a team withdraws due to injury, following nomination for a specific tie, then it is at the discretion of the Non-Playing Captain to decide how to play the remaining matches e.g., if singles player 1 withdraws, singles 2 and doubles could be played with singles 1 being forfeit.
 - Alternately, if a player, whether from an older age group or called up, comes in as a substitute (such a player will still be deemed eligible for selection for their own age group) for a specific tie, then the order of merit must be maintained. e.g., Singles 1 will be played by original Singles 2 player if Singles 1 is injured, and substitute will slot in at Singles 2 or Doubles with 1 of the Doubles players moving up to the Singles 2 spot.
13. One point shall be awarded for each match won in each tie and the Province securing the greatest number of points shall be the winner of the event. Should there be an equality of the greatest number of points the event shall be won by the team with the greatest number of sets won.
14. Each match shall be the best of two normal tie-break sets and a Match Tie Break (first to 10 win by 2).
15. 3 new tennis balls to be provided for each match.
16. All players must wear accepted tennis attire & footwear.

17. The schedule of matches in each event shall be determined in such a way that there is even progress between the provinces/teams during weekend. The schedule is to be fully published on Tournament Software three days before event & notification of same advised in advance to all provinces.

18. Where, for any reason, an event is not completed before the winning province has been determined, the decision of the TI National Seniors Committee of Tennis Ireland in consultation with the Director, Referee & Assistant Referee of the event will prevail.

19. The organisation of the Championships shall be vested in the Councils of the host Provinces in each year and every Province shall, prior to 1st April in each year, nominate a representative to Tennis Ireland to deal with necessary administrative matters relating to the Championships.

20. The venues for the Championships shall have not less than 8/9 courts of uniform surface with floodlights, together with adequate changing, viewing and catering facilities. Should the designated courts become unplayable, for any reason, the event may, at the discretion of the Referee, be transferred to courts of a satisfactory standard, which may be of a different surface. It is the responsibility of the TI Competitions Committee to ensure that the venues selected meet the minimum facilities criteria and arrange for inspection of the facilities if necessary.

* Masters 30,35,40, 45 in the current format needs 12 courts

21. The host Province shall nominate a Director, Referee and an Assistant Referee in respect of each event. The names of such Director, Referees shall be submitted for approval to the Competitions Committee of Tennis Ireland no later than 2 weeks prior to the event each year.

22. The venue and surface to be used shall be notified by the host Provinces to the Honorary Secretary of Tennis Ireland and to the Honorary Secretaries of the Provincial Branches not later than 4 weeks before the event each year.

23. The host Province will notify Tennis Ireland and the other Provinces of arrangements and costs not later than 4 weeks before the event each year.

24. Tennis Ireland shall notify the Honorary Secretaries of the Branches of the make and brand of ball to be used by not later than 4 weeks before the event each year. Balls must be pressurised and approved by the ITF.

25. The Referees shall hold a Captains' Meeting at 09:00am on the first day of the event or at a suitable agreed time prior to play. All Players must be present at 09:30am on the first day of the event for the Official Team Photographs.

26. Should a point arise which, in the opinion of the Referee, necessitates consultation with the competing Provinces, the Referee may call a meeting consisting of two representatives from each Province, one of whom shall be the non-playing captain. Every Province shall, prior to the commencement of play in each event,

nominate their other representative. A list of representatives from each province to be provided in advance to host province Director, only nominated representatives may attend such meetings.

27. It shall be the duty of the Honorary Treasurers of the host Provinces to prepare accounts in respect of the Championships by 15th November each year for inclusion in their accounts.

28. Each Province is responsible for paying all costs incurred by their teams before they leave their accommodation and the venue. All meal & beverage costs associated with each provincial team, to be paid to the host province as soon as is practicable. Invoices for these costs will be posted in advance to each province for full payment. Preferred payment terms will be advised in invoice.

29. These rules supersede and amend/replace all preceding rules in respect of the Championships and shall come into effect from January 1st 2023.

Appendix:

Clarifications in relation to the Order of merit.

The item that must be confirmed by each Province and can't be changed for the duration of the Competition as per Rule 8 above is the order of Merit.

However, it doesn't mean you can't vary who plays doubles during the competition. Any of the players can play doubles. However, at all times the players who line out for singles must do so in order of merit. So, for instance if the No. 1 Player in the order of merit plays in the doubles with say the No. 3 Player in the order of merit, then the No. 2 Player in the order of merit must play No. 1 singles and the No. 4 Player in the order of merit must play the No. 2 Singles. There are many other permutations possible. However due to the strict adherence to the order of merit for the duration of the Competition the No 1 Player in the order of merit can never play in the No. 2 Singles and the No.4 Player in the Order of merit can never play in the No. 1 singles.

Rule 11 above covers the procedure for confirming the actual line-out for each tie within the Competition.

COVID 19:

All protocols as laid down by Sport Ireland,, Sport Northern Ireland, Tennis Ireland and the current laws of the land shall be followed at the events.