

MUNSTER BRANCH of TENNIS IRELAND
JUNIOR SUMMER COMPETITIONS 2011

RULES

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- 1.1** The following rules shall apply to the Junior Summer Cup Competitions 2011 organised by the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland. Any breach of these rules may result in a fine, suspension or disqualification from the competitions.
- 1.2** All matches shall be governed by the Rules of Tennis as published by the International Tennis Federation
- 1.3** The conduct of players and spectators shall be governed by the Codes of Conduct for Players and Spectators approved by Tennis Ireland. A copy of each of these documents should be available at the venue.
- 1.4** Common courtesy is expected of all clubs to visiting teams.
- 1.5** The Competitions Committee shall have power to deal with any matter which may arise in connection with this competition and which is not provided for in these rules. Any protest relating to any aspect of the competition must be sent in writing on the prescribed form within 48 hours of the incident to which the protest relates occurring. The protest should be sent by registered post to both the Convenor of the Competitions Committee and to the Hon. Secretary of the opposing club. (See Rule 6.2 below for relevant addresses) It must be signed by two Officers of the club submitting the protest. An officer of either of the clubs involved may attend the meeting of the Competitions Committee at which the protest is to be considered in order to make a verbal submission to the meeting. Attendance should be confirmed with either the Convenor of the Competitions Committee or the Administrator of the Munster Branch a minimum of 24 hours prior to the meeting.
- 1.6** The decision of the Competitions Committee in regard to any protest will in the first instance be made known verbally to the Honorary Secretary or other appropriate officer of each of the clubs involved. This verbal communication shall have the same effect as if were a written communication. The decision of the Competitions Committee in regard to any protest will subsequently be made known in writing to the clubs involved.
- 1.7** The decision of the Competitions Committee may be appealed by either club to the Officers of the Munster Branch Council providing that:
 - (i) A written appeal is lodged with the Administrator of the Munster Branch within 48 hours of the decision being made known to all parties as described in Rule 1.6 above.
 - (ii) The appeal is sent by registered letter and is accompanied by a cheque for €50.00 made payable to the Munster Branch
- 1.8** Should the appeal be successful the €50.00 fee will be returned to the club making the appeal.
- 1.9** The appeal shall be considered by a minimum of three (3) of the Council Officers. The Council Officers may only take into account such matters as were made known to the Competitions Committee when the protest was being considered by them.

- 1.10** The decision of the Council Officers in regard to any appeal shall be final and binding on both clubs.
- 1.11** The failure of the opposing team, the Competitions Committee or the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland to identify a breach of these rules shall not of itself negate the breach. Any breach discovered at any time will result in a sanction to be decided by the Competitions Committee including but not limited to disqualification from the competition.
- 1.12** The “Home” team will be required to have a copy of these herein Rules together with a copy of the current Rules of Tennis as published by International Tennis Federation available at the venue.

2 COMPETITIONS.

- 2.1** In the event that the entry in any of the events is deemed by the Competitions Committee to be too small to use the standard knockout format the format may be changed or the event cancelled. The decision of the Competitions Committee in this regard shall be final. Specific rules attaching to any changed format will be issued with the details of the draw for that event.
- 2.2** Subject to Rule 2.1 all events in this competition shall be run on a knock-out draw basis.
- 2.3** There will be a Plate event in each competition where it is feasible to hold one. All runners-up in their first round matches will be eligible to take part in the Plate event. A team who gives a walk-over disqualifies itself from entering a Plate.
- 2.4** In all Knock-out competitions, the top team drawn shall have choice of venue in the first Round. In the second and later Rounds the team who did not have choice in the previous Round shall have choice. A Bye or Walk-over counts as having choice of venue. Where both or neither had choice in the previous Round, the top team shall have choice.
- 2.5** Each team will be awarded one point for each match won in a fixture. The team with the highest number of points will go forward to the next round.
- 2.6** All draws to be made at least 10 days before first round fixtures are due to be played. Venues for finals will be decided by the Munster Branch.
- 2.7** The draw will be a seeded one with the number of seeds to be decided by the Competitions Committee in line with normal practice. The seeded entrants will be decided by the Competitions Committee
- 2.8** If one team wins five (5) or more of the six (6) singles matches in any fixture they can then be declared the winners of the fixture. The remaining doubles matches should be played unless it is agreed between both non-playing captains that they not be played.
- 2.9** There shall be four (4) events as listed below.
- 2.10 UNDER-18 JUNIOR CUP**
- 2.10.1** This event is open to all players who are under 18 years on December 31st in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences.
- 2.10.2** Each team shall consist of three (3) boys and three (3) girls.
- 2.10.3** Each fixture in this competition will consist of six (6) singles matches, one (1) boys' doubles match, one (1) girls' doubles match and one (1) mixed doubles match.

- 2.10.4 A match shall be the best of 3 tiebreak sets.
- 2.10.5 Players taking part in the under-18 competition may take part in any of the other junior team competitions covered by these rules provided they meet the age criterion for such competition.

2.11 UNDER-16 "SUNSHINE" CUP

- 2.11.1 This event is open to all players who are under 16 years on December 31st in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences.
- 2.11.2 Each team shall consist of three (3) boys and three (3) girls.
- 2.11.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of six (6) singles matches and three (3) mixed doubles matches.
- 2.11.4 A match shall be the best of 3 tiebreak sets.

2.12 UNDER-14 CUP

- 2.12.1 This event is open to all players who are under 14 years on December 31st in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences.
- 2.12.2 Each team shall consist of three (3) boys and three (3) girls.
- 2.12.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of six (6) singles matches, one (1) boys' doubles match, one (1) girls' doubles match and one (1) mixed doubles match.
- 2.12.4 A match shall be the best of 3 tiebreak sets.

2.13 UNDER-12 "MAHER SPORTS" CUP

- 2.13.1 This event is open to all players who are under 12 years on December 31st in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences.
- 2.13.2 Each team shall consist of three (3) boys and three (3) girls.
- 2.13.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of six (6) singles matches and three (3) mixed doubles matches.
- 2.13.4 Each match shall consist of two (2) tie-break sets. In the event of a match being tied at one set each, the match will be decided by a championship tie-break (first to 10 points – win by 2 points).

3 ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 Only Clubs and Bodies who are Members of Tennis Ireland may enter this competition. Any club entering the competition must have paid all Affiliation fees, Player Capitation fees and Tournament Capitation fees (where applicable) in respect of all years up to December 31st of the year immediately preceding the year in which this competition commences. In addition any club entering this competition must have paid all Affiliation fees in respect of the current year.
- 3.2 No Junior may play in more than one age group (except for Junior Cup)
- 3.3 A club entering more than one team in the same competition shall treat each team as if they were drawn from different clubs, i.e. there shall be no inter-change of players or substitutes between teams.

3.4 Any team which uses a player who is not eligible to play under the rules of the competition shall be disqualified.

3.5 Any club wishing to enter a player aged less than 10 years on December 31st of the year immediately preceding the year of the competition will be required to provide a Tennis Ireland passport for that player.

4 ENTRIES.

4.1 The Competitions Committee reserves the right to refuse entry to any of the competitions.

4.2 Entries should be submitted to the Administrator of the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland no later than 5.00pm on 25th March 2011

4.3 The entry fees shall be €45 per team per event.

4.4 Entry fees shall be decided annually by the Munster Branch

4.5 Entries will not be accepted unless the full appropriate entry fee is submitted with the entry.

4.6 Teams entering a Junior competition must submit a panel of players with their entry. Teams can only be drawn from this panel. The maximum number of players on a panel will be ten (10) boys and ten (10) girls.

4.7 In competitions of multiple singles, the singles players shall play in order of merit. All of the players on the panel referred to in Rule 4.6 shall be listed in order of merit. This order of merit will be decided by the club based on the players' results from all of the following events in which each player took part.

(i) Regional, Provincial and National Match-plays.

4.8 The submitted order of merit will be subject to approval by the Competitions Committee. This order of merit shall be maintained throughout the competition. Substitutes must directly replace the absent player. Doubles combinations may be decided on the day of the fixture but must be notified to the opposing club prior to the commencement of the fixture.

4.9 Copies of the approved player panels referred to in Rule 4.6 will be provided to all of the entrants.

4.10 It shall be mandatory for each team to nominate a non-playing Captain when submitting their entry. The non-playing captain should be over 18 years of age and should be familiar with the rules of the competition, child protection guidelines etc. The non-playing Captain will be required to act on behalf of the team with regard to arranging fixtures, completion of team and result sheets, the welfare of the team, the behaviour of the team and dealing with any issues that may arise during the fixture including any decisions that may have to be taken by the team. .

4.11 If the originally nominated non-playing Captain is unavailable a substitute non-playing Captain who meets the criteria set out in Rule 4.10 may be nominated to the Administrator of the Munster Branch no later than five (5) days prior to the fixture at which the substitute is to officiate. In exceptional circumstances the Branch may waive this requirement but their decision in this regard will be final.

Failure to have a non-playing Captain at the fixture will be considered to constitute a "no-show" resulting in disqualification from the competition

5 FIXTURES

- 5.1** The Competitions Committee shall specify the dates by which fixtures must be played. Fixtures may be played before the specified date provided both clubs are in agreement to do so. A postponement of a fixture can only be granted by the Competitions Committee. Any team taking a postponement without permission will automatically be disqualified. Clubs are not obliged to agree to any request from the opposing team to change the date of the fixture specified by the Competitions Committee. However, having agreed to change the time or date, then this becomes the official time and date of the fixture. Teams not fulfilling a fixture will be fined. The amount of the fine to be imposed will be set by the Competitions Committee. In competitions played on a league basis, clubs not fulfilling a fixture will be disqualified in addition to the imposition of a fine. Only the non-playing Captain may arrange an alternative date in advance of the date specified for the fixture by the Competitions Committee. Details of any agreed changes to the date and/or time of any fixture is to be notified to the Administrator of Munster Branch by the team requesting the change a minimum of 3 days before the new date of the fixture.
- 5.2** The Home team must contact the Away team at least 5 days in advance of a fixture. Messages left on answering machines or text messages do not constitute 'contact'. If contact cannot be made with the Away team the 'Home' team shall notify the Competitions Convenor or any member of the Competitions Committee immediately. Failure to do so may result in disqualification
- 5.3** Arrangements in regard to fixtures are to be made by the non-playing Captain as listed in the official entry form. An alternative non-playing Captain may be substituted by notifying the Administrator of the Munster Branch a minimum of 5 days before the commencement of the event.
- 5.4** The Competitions Committee shall permit a postponement only in very exceptional circumstances. Any Club taking a postponement without permission shall automatically be disqualified from the Competition.
- 5.5** All members of a team must be available for play at the agreed commencement time. In the event of a player being more than 15 minutes later than the agreed time, such player shall forfeit the first of his/her matches to the opposing team. In the event of a player being more than 30 minutes later than the agreed time, such player shall forfeit both of his/her matches to the opposing team.
- 5.6** Immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture the non-playing Captain of each team will exchange at the same time with the non-playing Captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, the order of merit of the singles players, the composition of all the doubles pairings and in the case of fixtures involving more than one mixed doubles match the order of merit of the pairings. Note that the order of merit for singles players must be as per the order on the official entry. Doubles pairings may be decided on the day.
- 5.7** The 'Home' venue means the courts in which club which is represented by the team is based and not borrowed courts, except under exceptional circumstances and by mutual agreement between the two teams.
- 5.8** The Home club shall have basic toilet and shower facilities available at the venue. Any legitimate complaints in regard to facilities will result in loss of 'Home' advantage for future fixtures. Clubs without such facilities may enter the competition but all of their fixtures must be played at the clubs against whom they are drawn.

- 5.9** Home club shall ensure that courts are up to standard i.e. Nets, Centre straps, well lined and surfaces free from obstacles. Any legitimate complaints will result in loss of 'Home' advantage for future fixtures.
- 5.10** The Home team shall provide new balls which must conform to Appendix 1 of the Rules of Tennis
- 5.11** fixtures being held at venues without flood-lit courts must commence no later than 12 noon. All other fixtures are to commence at 2pm or at another time mutually agreed. No club may be asked to play before 11 a.m.
- 5.12** If Home club cannot provide courts, the fixture reverts to visiting team courts
- 5.13** A fully completed and signed Result Sheet must be returned by the non-playing captain of the winning team (or the non-playing captain of the "Home" team in the event of a draw) to the Munster Branch Administrator within 24 hours of the fixture being played. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a sanction being imposed by the Competitions Committee on the team responsible for returning the sheet and/or the club which it represents.
- 5.14** A team who gives a walk-over is liable to be fined. The fine will be decided by the Competitions Committee and may be imposed on the Club represented by the team in question.

6 COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

6.1 Competitions Committee 2010/2011:

Ron Sisk (Carrigaline T.C.) (Convenor) 086-3841250,

Mary Long (Lattin T.C.) - 062-55435

Mary O'Brien (Lower Aghada T.C.) – 087-2437746

Tony O'Donoghue (Limerick Lawn T.C.) – 061-455174

Ursula Hogan (Ballinlough T.C.) – 086-8531037

Joe Power (Tramore T.C.)– 087-6692765

Hon Secretary Munster Branch: Ursula Hogan (Ballinlough T.C.) – 086-8531037

Administrator : Ella McCarthy – Phone/Fax: 021-4812330: Mon – Fri 9.30am to 1pm

Email: branchadmin@eircom.net

- 6.2** Addresses for correspondence can be got from the Branch Administrator or from any member of the Competitions Committee

7 GENERAL

- 7.1** Perpetual Trophies shall be presented to the winners in some events. These trophies remain the property of the Munster Branch and shall be held in trust by the winning Club for the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland.