

**MUNSTER BRANCH of TENNIS IRELAND****WINTER LEAGUE 2010/2011****RULES****1 RULES**

- 1.1** The following rules shall apply to the Winter League Competitions 2010/2011 organised by the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland. Any breach of these rules may result in a fine, suspension or disqualification from the competition.
- 1.2** All matches shall be governed by the Rules of Tennis as published by the International Tennis Federation
- 1.3** The conduct of players and spectators shall be governed by the Codes of Conduct for Players and Spectators approved by Tennis Ireland. A copy of each of these documents should be available at the venue.
- 1.4** Common courtesy is expected of all clubs towards visiting teams.
- 1.5** The Competitions Committee shall have power to deal with any matter which may arise in connection with this competition and which is not provided for in these rules. 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 Rules together with a copy of the current Rules of Tennis as published by International Tennis Federation available at the venue.

2 COMPETITIONS.

- 2.1** In the event that the entry in any of the events is deemed by the Competitions Committee to be too small to use the standard League/knockout format described herein the format may be changed or the event cancelled. The decision of the Competitions Committee in this regard shall be final. Specific rules attaching to any changed format will be issued with the details of the draw for that event.
- 2.2** Subject to Rule 2.1 all events in this competition shall be run on a combination league/knock-out draw basis.
- 2.3** The league section of the competition shall be run as follows: all of the entrants shall be arranged in groups of 4 teams. Where necessary the Competitions Committee may change this number to 3 or 5 teams. Within each group each team will play each of the other teams in the group twice - once at their own club (Home fixture) and once at the other team's club (Away fixture).
- 2.4** Each team will be awarded one point for each match won in a fixture. The two teams with the highest number of points in each group at the end of league section of the competition will qualify for entry into the knock-out section of the competition.
- 2.5** In the event that there are a number of teams in a group on equal points the team to qualify will be decided as follows:- The team which has won the most matches in the fixtures between these teams will be deemed to have qualified. In the event that the teams have won the same number of matches the team which has won the most sets in the fixtures between these teams will be deemed to have qualified. In the event that the teams have won the same number of sets the team which has won the most games in the fixtures between these teams will be deemed to have qualified.
- 2.6** In the knock-out section of the competition 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
- 2.7** The format of the fixtures in the knock-out section of the competition shall be exactly as for the league section. Each team will be awarded a point for each match won in a fixture. The team with the highest number of points will move forward to the next round. In the case of those fixtures with an even number of matches where both teams have the same number of points at the end of the 4 matches a mixed doubles decider will be played. The decider will consist of 1 tie-break set to be played between a pair from each team made up of players who have not already played together in the fixture. These pairs are to be nominated by each team captain just prior to the decider being played.
- 2.8** There shall be six events in the competition as listed below.

2.10 Premier/Grade 1,

2.10.1 This event is open to all players who are over 18 years on December 31st in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are listed in the current Munster Players' Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules. It is also open to any player who is 18 years or less on December 31st in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences whose name has been submitted to and approved to take part in the competition by the Competitions Committee.

2.10.2 Each team shall consist of 2 men and 2 ladies.

2.10.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches - 1 men's singles, 1 ladies' singles and 1 mixed doubles followed by 1 mens' and 1 ladies' doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

2.10.4 A match shall be the best of 3 tiebreak sets

2.11 Grade 2

2.11.1 This event is open to all players who are over 18 years on December 31st in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are listed in the current Munster Players' Directory at Grade 2 or lower or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory at such grade in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules. It is also open to all players who comply with Rule 3.7 of these rules.

2.11.2 A team shall consist of 2 Ladies and 2 Men.

2.11.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches - 1 men's singles, 1 ladies' singles and 1 mixed doubles followed by 1 mens' and 1 ladies' doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

2.11.4 A match shall be the best of 3 tiebreak sets.

2.12 Grade 3

2.12.1 This event is open to all players who are over 18 years on December 31st in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are listed in the current Munster Players' Directory at Grade 3 or lower or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory at such grade in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

2.12.2 A team shall consist of 2 Ladies and 2 Men.

2.12.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches - 1 men's singles, 1 ladies' singles and 1 mixed doubles followed by 1 mens' and 1 ladies' doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

2.12.4 A match shall be the best of 3 tiebreak sets.

2.13 Grade 4

2.13.1 This event is open to all players who are over 18 years on December 31st in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are listed in the current Munster Players' Directory at Grade 4 or lower or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory at such grade in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

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

2.13.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches - 1 men's doubles, 1 ladies' doubles and 2 mixed doubles to be played in that order.

2.13.4 A match shall be the best of 3 tiebreak sets.

2.14 Grade 5

- 2.14.1** This event is open to all players who are over 18 years on December 31st in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are listed in the current Munster Players' Directory at Grade 5 or lower or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory at such grade in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.
- 2.14.2** A team shall consist of 2 ladies and 2 men.
- 2.14.3** Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches - 1 men's doubles, 1 ladies' doubles and 2 mixed doubles to be played in that order.
- 2.14.4** A match shall be the best of 3 tiebreak sets.
- 2.15 Grade 6**
- 2.15.1** This event is open to all players who are over 18 years on December 31st in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences provided they are listed in the current Munster Players' Directory at Grade 6 or lower or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory at such grade in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.
- 2.15.2** A team shall consist of 2 ladies and 2 men.
- 2.15.3** Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches - 1 men's doubles, 1 ladies' doubles and 2 mixed doubles to be played in that order.
- 2.15.4** A match shall be the best of 3 tiebreak sets.

3 ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1** Only Clubs and Bodies who are Members of Tennis Ireland may enter this competition. Any club entering the competition must have paid all Affiliation fees, Player Capitation fees and Tournament Capitation fees (where applicable) in respect of all years up to December 31st of the year immediately preceding the year in which this competition commences. Any club entering this competition must have paid all Affiliation fees in respect of the current year.
- 3.2** Eligible players as per rules 2.10.1, 2.11.1, 2.12.1, 2.13.1, 2.14.1 and 2.15.1 may play in this competition for any one club of which they are a member. In the event that a player is listed in two different grades in the Munster Branch Players Directory his grade for the purposes of this competition shall be deemed to be the higher grade.
- 3.3** If a club wishes to use a player who is not listed in the current Players' Directory they may do so provided an application to register the players is received by the Munster Branch Administrator at least 7 days prior to the fixture in which it is intended to use the unlisted player. The application should be accompanied by an assessment of the player's grade by a Tennis Ireland approved coach. Failure to comply with this rule prior to an unlisted player taking part in any fixture will render the club liable to disqualification.
- 3.4** Players may only play for one club in this competition.
- 3.5** Players may play in one final only on finals' day.
- 3.6** A Club entering more than one team in a grade shall treat each team as if it were drawn from a different club. i.e. there shall be no inter-change of players or substitutes between teams
- 3.7** Players who are over 16 years on December 31st in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences are eligible to play in the Grade 2 event only provided they (a) have never played on a Provincial or National Junior team or (b) have not qualified to compete in a National Matchplay in the 2 years immediately preceding the year in which these competitions commence.
- 3.8** No player may play below his/her own grade. Players may play in any grade above their own grade in addition to playing in their own grade.

- 3.9 All reference to grades are to grades as they appear in the Munster Branch Players' Directory.
- 3.10 Any team which uses a player who is not eligible to play under the rules of the competition shall be disqualified.

4 ENTRIES.

- 4.1 The Competitions Committee reserves the right to refuse to accept an entry to any of the events in this competition. Any entries not accepted by the Competitions Committee will have their entry fee refunded.
- 4.2 In the case of Clubs entering more than one team in any event please note that only the "First Choice" team as per the entry form is guaranteed a place. The inclusion of any of the other teams entered by the club in the same event is at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.
- 4.3 Entries should be submitted to the Administrator of the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland no later than 9.00pm on October 8th.2010
- 4.4 The entry fees shall be 60 Euro per team.
- 4.5 A club which intends to use eligible junior players in any of the events in which juniors are allowed to play must submit the names and dates of birth of all intended players with their entry. The Competitions Committee will review the submitted list and notify the entrant of the junior players on this list that it approves to play in this competition. The use of a junior player without such approval shall render the club liable to disqualification.
- 4.6 Copies of the approved player panels referred to in Rule 4.5 will be provided to all of the entrants.
- 4.7 Entries will not be accepted unless the full appropriate entry fee is submitted with the entry.

5 FIXTURES

- 5.1 Fixtures shall be played at 2.00pm (or at 12.00 noon in the case of clubs covered by rule 5.12) on the date specified by the Competitions Committee as shown on the draw sheets. Fixtures may be played before the specified date provided both clubs are in agreement to do so. Clubs are not obliged to agree to any request from the opposing team to change the date of the fixture specified by the Competitions Committee. However, having agreed to change either the time or date, then this becomes the official time and date of the fixture. Only the nominated contact as listed on the official contact list or an alternative contact as per Rule 5.2 may arrange an alternative date in advance of the date specified for the fixture by the Competitions Committee. Details of any agreed changes to the date 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 Arrangements in regard to fixtures are to be made by the person listed by the club as the contact in the official entry form. An alternative contact can be substituted by notifying the Administrator of the Munster Branch and each of the official contacts of the teams in the group a minimum of 7 days before the commencement of the competition.
- 5.3 A postponement of a fixture can only be granted by the Competitions Committee. The Competitions Committee may permit a postponement in very exceptional circumstances. Any Club taking a postponement without permission shall automatically be disqualified from the Competition.
- 5.4 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.

- 5.5** Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles and mixed doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture. Teams may confirm the mixed doubles pairings after the mens and ladies doubles have been played. However, completion of this section of the sheets and exchanging of sheets shall again be as set out above.
- 5.6** A team who gives a walk-over in the league section of the event will automatically be disqualified. All scores from previous matches in which they were involved will be disregarded for the league section of the event. In addition a fine to be decided by the Competitions Committee will be imposed on the Club represented by the team in question.
- 5.7** The 'Home' venue means the courts in which the club which is represented by the team is based and not borrowed courts, except under exceptional circumstances and by mutual agreement between the two teams.
- 5.8** In the event that the Home club cannot provide courts for their "Home" fixture as per the official draw the Home and Away fixtures as per the official draw may be re-arranged by mutual agreement between the two teams involved. If no agreement is reached the fixture shall be played at the "Away" club's courts. The "Home" team then forfeits their "Home" fixture.
- 5.9** The Home club shall have basic toilet and shower facilities available at the venue. Any legitimate complaints in regard to facilities will result in loss of 'Home' advantage for future matches. Clubs without such facilities may enter the competition but all of their matches must be played at the clubs against whom they are drawn.
- 5.10** The Home Club shall ensure that courts are up to standard i.e. Nets, Centre-Strap, well lined and surfaces free from obstacles. Any legitimate complaints will result in loss of 'Home' advantage for future matches.
- 5.11** The Home team shall provide new balls which must conform to Appendix 1 of the Rules of Tennis
- 5.12** 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 mutually agreed time. No club may be required to play before 11 a.m.
- 5.13** A fully completed and signed Result Sheet must be returned by the captain of the winning team (or the 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** All juniors must be clearly indicated on the Result Sheet

6 TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

6.1 Competitions Committee 2010:

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.