



2022-2023

**JUNIOR COMPETITIVE
STRUCTURE**

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1.1 Tournament Sanction Agreement within the Province of Alberta

All tournaments will follow the guidelines set out in the annual Tournament Sanction Agreement. The Sanction Agreement will dictate the following:

- Need for Officials
- Entry and Withdrawal Deadlines
- Tournament Costs
- Tournament Scoring Formats
- Sanction Fee

Adjustments will not be permitted to these standards without prior approval and consultation with Tennis Alberta. Example of adjustments that may be permitted:

- Decreasing the cost of a tournament to attract more entries.
- Increasing the cost of the tournament to fund a prize pack.
- Extending a tournament deadline for a non-competitive event.
- Altering the scoring format to adjust for entry numbers.

1.2 Seasons

Indoor Season

The Indoor Season will take place from the beginning of October 2022 and continue until the middle of April 2023. It will last for approximately 29 weeks.

Outdoor Season

The Outdoor Season will take place from the middle of April 2023 and continue until the end of September 2023. It will last for approximately 23 weeks.

1.3 Registration Policies

- The registration date for each tournament will open approximately four weeks prior to the registration deadline.
- The registration deadline for each tournament will be stated on the tournament page.
- The withdrawal deadline for each tournament will be stated on the tournament page.
- Players are expected to withdraw before the withdrawal deadline. Players who fail to do so will not be issued a refund. Junior and Open players who fail to withdraw before the withdrawal deadline will also be allocated one suspension point.

2.0 Junior Competitive Structure

2.1. Junior Overview and Regulations

The Junior Competitive Structure will consist of eight types of Junior Tournaments, fitting into four categories of tournaments with their own unique purpose and description.

The following is the breakdown of tournaments sanctioned by Tennis Alberta.

National Pathway	✓ Provincials – 5 Stars ✓ National Selections – 4 Stars
Provincial Pathway	✓ 3.5 Stars ✓ 3 Stars
Club Pathway	✓ 2 Stars ✓ Rogers Rookie Tour – 1 Star
U9/U10 Events	✓ U10 ✓ U9

2.2 National Pathway-Road to Nationals

Purpose and Description



- The National Pathway are Alberta’s highest rated events and distribute the highest point allocations.
- Each season (indoor and outdoor) Tennis Alberta will host one 5 Star Event, and three 4 Star Events.
- Players must play in Provincials and a minimum of one 4 Star tournament in the age group in which they wish to participate.
- The schedule of National Pathway events will be clearly listed in Tennis Alberta’s sanctioned tournament schedule. This schedule may be subject to change.
- If any changes are made they will be communicated to members via e-blast and on the Tennis Alberta website.

Eligibility

- Players must be in good standing with Tennis Alberta and have an active Tennis Alberta membership or membership with any other Provincial Tennis Association.
- Age eligibility is based on the calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31).

AGE CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE YEAR OF BIRTH	
	FALL 2022	2023
U12	2010	2011
U14	2008	2009
U16	2006	2007
U18	2004	2005

- Players will only be allowed to play up a maximum of two age groups.
e.g. U12 players cannot play U18 and U10 players cannot play U16
- For tournaments with multiple age groups taking place at the same time, a player may only be permitted to play in one event.
- Players must be registered before the registration deadline to compete in the event. No late entries will be considered.
- For out-of-province players participating, Tennis Alberta has the right to modify or adjust the rankings as it pertains to tournament eligibility.

Tournament Format

- The format for each tournament may be different but the scoring will remain consistent across the age groups.
- U12 singles will play best two of three tiebreak sets, regular scoring, with a ten-point tiebreaker in place of a third set.
- U14-U18 singles will play best two of three tiebreak sets, with regular scoring.
- All tournaments will utilize the no-service let rule.
- Tournament organizers will do their best to ensure that the tournament is completed on the appropriate surface. If a tournament is registered as an Outdoor Hardcourt tournament, all matches are expected to play outdoor on hardcourt.
- During the outdoor season, if there is inclement weather, the tournament organizers will do their best to ensure that the tournament continues outdoors.
- If there is light rain, the correct procedure is to stop matches, wait for the courts to dry, and then resume matches outdoors.
- In the case of precipitation or other severe weather, the correct procedure would be to stop matches for a set amount of time, and have the matches resume later in the day. Eg. Matches stopped at noon because of rain, may resume at 5pm.
- In the case of precipitation or other more severe weather that is forecasted for a longer period of time, matches may be moved indoors. Please discuss this with the tournament referee, as the prerogative of the tournament is to have all matches played outdoors.

For tournaments with no indoor back-up and there has been significant lost time over the weekend due to inclement weather, the tournament organizer may consult with Tennis Alberta as to whether or not they may abbreviate the scoring method. In the event a tournament is unable to be completed, due to inclement weather and no indoor availability, the following options are available to **Tennis Alberta at its sole discretion** These will be:

1. Complete the main draw of the event on another weekend which works with 100% of the players.
2. Have the event finish as “not completed”.

Seeds

Seedings for each selections tournament and provincials will be set according to National Rankings. Out-of-Province seeds are subject to review based on recent significant results against Alberta players and their National Rankings.

- In-town players are expected to be available starting at 5:00 pm on Thursday and as early as 8:00 am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, though in most cases Friday play will begin at noon or 5:00 pm where possible. Out-of-town players will not be expected to play Thursday evening, but may be scheduled any time for the remainder of the tournament. The Tournament Director will post any special notices related to tournament draw times in the tournament notes.
- Players may request to play at certain times over the course of the tournament. Please be advised requests may be accommodated or denied at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. Players making time requests may do so during the registration process online.

3.0 Provincial Championship - 5 Stars

Purpose and Description

- Provincial Championships are used to determine the top players in Alberta. Since these events hold the most points, they will be significant in qualifying for Nationals. There will be one Provincial Championship held per age group per season.
- To qualify for Nationals, a player must participate in the Provincial Championship for which they wish to qualify.

Eligibility

- Players will be accepted based on their ranking from highest to lowest.
- Out-of-Province players will not be accepted into this event.

Draw Size

- Only the Top 8 registrants according to National Ranking will be accepted into the tournament directly, all other players will need to participate in qualifying.
- The size of the qualifying draw will depend on the availability of courts for the hosting club, but will be no smaller than 16 players, with 8 players qualifying for the Main Draw.
- Players who fail to qualify may gain a place in the draw as a lucky loser, if a player from the Main Draw withdraws before the tournament commences. Lucky loser positions will be offered to those highest ranked players losing in the final tournament qualifying rounds.
- Players who register but do not gain acceptance into the tournament will be issued a full refund.

Tournament Format

- The singles draws will consist of a maximum of 16 players and be played with a feed-in consolation. The feed-in will continue to the quarter-finals. The player who wins this consolation will thus be ranked 5th in the tournament.
- Four players will be seeded for Provincials, based off of National Rankings.
- The doubles draws will consist of a maximum of 8 teams and be played with no consolation. Players need to participate in doubles to be eligible to play in the singles competition. If a player withdraws from doubles due to injury, they will then be withdrawn from singles as well.
- Two teams will be seeded for the doubles draw.

4.0 4 -Star Tournaments

Purpose and Description

- The purpose of the 4 Star tournaments is to help determine the players Tennis Alberta will select to represent Team Alberta at the Fischer Junior National Championships.
- There will be three 4 Star events held each season.

Eligibility

- Only the Top 12 registrants according to National Rankings will be accepted directly into the tournament. The final 4 spots will be awarded to 4 players from a qualifying draw on the first day of the event
- The next 16 registrants will be placed in a qualifying draw, with 4 players moving into the main draw.
- Any player involved in the singles draw must also register for doubles. If a player chooses not to play doubles they will be excluded from the singles draw.
- A maximum of three out-of-province players will be accepted per draw. These players will be accepted based on their National Rankings.

Draw Size

- The singles draw will consist of a maximum of 16 competitors.
- The qualifying draw will consist of a maximum of 16 players feeding into 4 qualifiers.
- The doubles draw will consist of a maximum of 10 teams, all players in qualifying will maintain a place in the doubles draw. (20 competitors).

Tournament Format

- The singles draws will consist of a maximum of 16 players and be played with a first match consolation draw.
- The doubles draw will consist of a maximum of 14 teams and be played with no consolation
- The singles draw will have 4 seeds
- The doubles draw will have 2 seeds.

5.0 Nationals Selection Process

Process

- Four players from each age group will be selected to represent Tennis Alberta at Junior National Championships.
- The players will be selected based on their National Rankings at a date selected by Tennis Alberta following the conclusion of Provincials and the subsequent updating of the rankings.
- Tennis Alberta will have final say on these selections as they see fit based on exterior circumstances.
- All Players must have participated in a minimum of one of Tennis Alberta's 4 Star events for the age group they are intended to represent in order to receive a Tennis Alberta junior nationals invitation.
- Players must have participated in the Provincial Championships for the age group they are intending to represent in order to receive an invitation.
- Players and parents will need to be in good standing with Tennis Alberta in order to receive an invitation.
- If an invitation is unable to be extended to one of the top 4 players, the next eligible player will receive an invitation.
- If a player declines an invitation to Nationals, the next eligible player will receive an invitation.
- If an invitation is unable to be extended to one of the top 4 players, the next eligible player will receive an invitation.
- If a player declines an invitation to Nationals, the next eligible player will receive an invitation.

Upon a selected date, Tennis Alberta will take note of the National Rankings of each player in their individual age category and make the following adjustments:

Please see subsequent note regarding National Rankings

- Points from Atlantic and Prairie competitions will be removed from the players top 5 results and replaces with the next highest eligible point total.
- Tennis Alberta reserve the right to modify the number of competitive events held as needed in case force majeure circumstances restrict a full array of tournaments being held across all age categories and divisions.

Wild Card

There will be no wildcards offered for spots for Junior Nationals. Players will need to compete at the Provincial Championships in order to be invited to represent Team Alberta at Junior Nationals.

6.0 Provincial Pathway

Purpose and Description

- The purpose of the Provincial Pathway is to offer opportunities to players who are not on a National Pathway to compete in a relevant environment. Subsequently these tournaments may offer opportunities for stronger players to work on specific development needs without the added pressure of performing .
- The number of Provincial Pathway events hosted will depend on the availability and want of the clubs to host these events. Tennis Alberta will ensure a minimum of two per age group per session.

Eligibility

- Players must be in good standing with Tennis Alberta and have an active Tennis Alberta membership in any other Provincial Association.
- Age eligibility is based on the calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31.)
- Players will only be able to play up one group.
U14 players may not play U18
U12 players may not play U16 or U18
U10 players may not play U14, U16 or U18
- For tournaments with multiple age groups (U12/U16), a player may only be permitted to play in one event.
- Players must be registered before the registration deadline before in order to compete in the event.
- For out-of-province players participating, Tennis Alberta has the right to modify the rankings as it pertain to tournament eligibility.

Tournament Format

- The format for each tournament may be different but the scoring will remain consistent across the age groups.
- All singles will play best two of three tiebreak sets, regular scoring, with a ten-point tiebreaker in place of a third set.
- Modified scoring may be used to shorten the event.
- All tournaments will utilize the no-service let rule.
- Tournament organizers will do their best to ensure that the tournament is completed on the appropriate surface. If a tournament is registered as an Outdoor Hardcourt tournament, all matches are expected to play outdoor on hardcourt.
- During the outdoor season, if there is inclement weather, the tournament organizers will do their best to ensure that the tournament continues outdoors.
- If there is light rain, the correct procedure is to stop matches, wait for the courts to dry, and then resume matches outdoors.
- In the case of precipitation or other severe weather, the correct procedure would be to stop matches for a set amount of time, and have the matches resume later in the day. e.g. Matches stopped at noon because of rain, may resume at 5pm.
- In the case of precipitation or other severe weather forecasted over a long period of time, matches may be moved indoors. Please discuss this with the tournament referee, as the prerogative of the tournament is to have all of the matches played outdoors.

For tournaments with no indoor back-ups that have lost significant portions of the weekend due to inclement weather, the tournament organizer shall consult with Tennis Alberta as to whether or not they may abbreviate the scoring method. In the event a tournament is unable to be completed, due to inclement weather and no indoor availability, the following options are available and will be considered/determined by Tennis Alberta solely.

These will be:

1. Complete the main draw of the event on another weekend which works with 100% of the players.
2. Have the event finish as “not completed”.

Seedings

Seedings for each selections tournament and provincials will be set according to National Rankings.

- In-town players are expected to be available starting at 5:00 pm on Thursday and as early as 8:00 am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, though in most cases Friday play will begin at noon or 5:00 pm where possible. Out-of-town players will not be expected to play Thursday evening, but may be scheduled any time for the remainder of the tournament. The Tournament Director will post any special notices related to tournament draw times in the tournament notes.
- In the case that players are unavailable to play at certain times over the course of the tournament, they may “request” the Tournament Director to accommodate this. However, please be advised that these requests may be accommodated or denied at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. Players making time requests will do so during the registration process online.

7.0 3.5 Star Tournaments

Purpose and Description

- The 3.5 Star Tournaments are closed to top 10 Albertan junior ranked provincial players across all age categories of Alberta. These tournaments are designed for progressing players to increase their ranking and gain additional match play opportunities.

Eligibility

- Players ranked inside the top 10 of the age group they are registering for cannot participate. Out of province players will be eligible to participate in 3.5 star events provided their national ranking does not place them within the top 10 of the Albertan provincial rankings for the particular age category/event they are registering.

Draw Size

- Tournaments will take as many players as their facility can accommodate.
- Players who are not accepted directly will be placed on a reserve list, and in the situation that a player withdraws, will be called upon to replace them, if the tournament hasn't yet begun.

Tournament Format

- All draws will consist of a first match consolation.
- The scoring format for all age groups will be two out of three sets with regular scoring, where a ten-point tiebreaker will be played in place of a third set.

8.0 3 Star Tournaments

Purpose and Description

- The 3 Star Tournaments are designed for players to begin to develop an initial ranking or to gain additional match play experience.

Eligibility

- Players ranked inside the top 16 of the age group they are registering for cannot participate. Out of province players will be eligible to participate in 3 star events provided their national ranking does not place them within the top 16 of the Albertan provincial rankings for the particular age category/event they are registering.

Draw Size

- Tournaments will take as many players as their facility can accommodate.
- Players who are not accepted directly will be placed on a reserve list, and in the situation that a player withdraws, will be called upon to replace them, as long as the tournament hasn't yet begun.

Tournament Format

- All draws will consist of a first match consolation.
- The scoring format for these events can change depending on the availability of courts and number of players available

9.0 Club Pathway

Purpose and Description

- The purpose of the Provincial Pathway is to offer opportunities to entry level players to begin their tennis careers playing against players of a similar level.
- The number of Club Pathway events hosted will depend on the availability and want of clubs to host these events. Tennis Alberta will ensure a minimum of two per age group per season.

Eligibility

- Players must be in good standing with Tennis Alberta and have an active Tennis Alberta membership or membership in any other Provincial Association.
- Age eligibility is based on the calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31).
- Players will only be allowed to play up one group.
U14 players may not play U18
U12 players may not play U16 or U18
U10 players may not play U14, U16 or U18
- For tournaments with multiple age groups (U12/U16), a player may only be permitted to play in one event.
- Players must be registered before the registration deadline to compete in the event.

Tournament Format

- **The format for each tournament and scoring can differ from tournament to tournament and will be up to the discretion of the tournament director in conjunction with Tennis Alberta. Tournament and scoring formats will be posted on the registration page. All tournaments will utilize the no-service let rule.**
- Tournament organizers will do their best to ensure that the tournament is completed on the appropriate surface. If a tournament is registered as an Outdoor Hardcourt tournament, all matches are expected to play outdoor on hardcourt.
- During the outdoor season, if there is inclement weather, the tournament organizers will do their best to ensure that the tournament continues outdoors.
- If there is light rain, the correct procedure is to stop matches, wait for the courts to dry, and then resume matches outdoors.
- In the case of precipitation or other severe weather the correct procedure would be to stop matches for a set amount of time, and have the matches resume later in the day. Eg. Matches stopped at noon because of rain, may resume at 5pm.
- In the case of precipitation or other severe weather that is forecasted for a longer period of time, matches may be moved indoors. Please discuss this with the tournament referee, as the prerogative of the tournament is to have all of the matches played outdoors.
- For tournaments with no indoor back-ups that have lost significant portions of the weekend due to inclement weather, the tournament organizer may consult with Tennis Alberta as to whether or not they may abbreviate the scoring method. In the event that a tournament is unable to complete, due to inclement weather and no indoor availability, the following options are available.

A. Complete the main draw of the event on another weekend which works with 100% of the players.

B. Have the event finish as “not completed”.

- Seeds for each qualifying tournament and provincials will be set according to National Rankings.
- In-town players are expected to be available starting at 5:00 pm on Thursday and as early as 8:00 am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, though in most cases Friday play will begin at noon or 5:00 pm where possible. Out-of-town players will not be expected to play Thursday evening, but may be scheduled any time for the remainder of the tournament. The Tournament Director will post any special notices related to tournament draw times in the tournament notes.
- In the case that players are unavailable to play at certain times over the course of the tournament, they may “request” the Tournament Director to accommodate this. However, please be advised that these requests may be accommodated or denied at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. Players making time requests will do so during the registration process online.

10.0 2 Star Tournaments

Purpose and Description

- The 2 Star Tournaments are closed to top players in the province and are designed for players to increase their ranking and gain additional match play.

Eligibility

- Players ranked inside the Top 24 of the age group they are registering for cannot participate. Out of province players will be eligible to participate in 2 star events provided their national ranking does not place them within the top 30 of the Albertan provincial rankings for the particular age category/event they are registering.

Draw Size

- Tournaments will take as many players as their facility can accommodate.
- Players who are not accepted directly will be placed on a reserve list, and in the situation that a player withdraws, will be called upon to replace them, as long as the tournament hasn't yet begun.

Tournament Format

- Scoring and tournament formats can differ from event to event. These decisions will be made by the Tournament Director in consultation with Tennis Alberta.

11.0 Rogers Rookie Tours

Purpose and Description

- Roger Rookie Tours are events held for players with little to no tennis experience, with the purpose of introducing them to the sport in a fun manner. These events will often be held in conjunction with club programming.

Eligibility

- Age eligibility is based on the calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31).

AGE CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE YEAR OF BIRTH	
	FALL 2022	2023
U18	2004	2005
U16	2006	2007
U14	2008	2009
U12	2010	2011
U10	2012	2013
U9	2013	2014
U8	2014	2015

- Players who have competed in three ranking tournaments at the age category they are participating in, will not be allowed to participate.

Tournament Format

- The format for both U9 and U10 will utilize timed matches and modified scoring.
- All tournaments will utilize the no-service let rule.
- All tournaments will be held in round-robin format unless discussed with the Tournament Coordinator.
- Tournaments are expected to be able to be successfully started and completed in the same day. Exceptions may be made for larger draws.

12.0 Year 9 and 10 Events

Purpose and Description

- The purpose of Year 9 and 10 tournaments is to provide junior players under the age of 10 the opportunity to compete at a high level with appropriate tennis balls, sized courts and equipment.

Eligibility

- Players must be in good standing with Tennis Alberta and have an active Tennis Alberta membership or membership any other Provincial Association.
- Age eligibility is based on the calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31).

AGE CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE YEAR OF BIRTH	
	FALL 2022	2023
U10	2012	2013
U9	2013	2014

- Players will be allowed to register for both a U9 and U10 in one weekend. However, if the tournament director chooses to run both events at the same time, the player may be asked to choose one or the other. The tournament director, in conjunction with Tennis Alberta, reserves the right to change this rule in order to accommodate the completion of all events.
- Players may choose to participate in both a year 9/10 tournament and a ranking tournament on the same weekend. However, tournament directors will treat these as two separate tournaments and are not expected to accommodate scheduling. The tournament director, in conjunction with Tennis Alberta, reserves the right to change this rule in order to accommodate the completion of all events.
- Players must be registered before the registration deadline in order to compete in the event.
- Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director in conjunction with Tennis Alberta.

Tournament Format

- The format for both U9 and U10 will utilize timed matches and modified scoring.
- All tournaments will utilize the no-service let rule.
- All tournaments will be held in round-robin format unless discussed with the Tournament Coordinator.
- Tournaments are expected to be able to be successfully started and completed in the same day. Exceptions may be made for larger draws.
- In the case that players are unavailable to play at certain times over the course of the tournament, they may “request” the Tournament Director to accommodate this. However, please be advised that these requests may be accommodated or denied at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. Players making time requests will do so during the registration process online.

12.1 Under 10 Events

Purpose and Description

- U10 tournaments are for players who have advanced by Orange Ball tennis and are ready to begin competing on a full size court with Green Dot Tennis Balls.

Eligibility

- Any player who is in the U10 age category or younger, may participate.

Draw Size

- Tournaments will take as many players as their facility can accommodate.
- Players who are not accepted directly will be placed on a reserve list, and in the situation that a player withdraws, will be called upon to replace them, as long as the tournament hasn't yet begun.

Tournament Format

- All draws will be done as round-robins, with an elimination playoff.
- Matches will be played with sets to 4, and no-ad scoring. If the set reaches 3-3, a tiebreaker will be played to 5, win by 1, and the same will be done if players split sets. A time-limit may be enforced for these events.
- Matches will have a maximum time limit of forty five minutes.

12.2 U9 Events

Purpose and Description

- U9 events is for players who have advanced past Red Ball Tennis and are looking to start playing competitively on the 3/4 Court with Orange Balls.

Eligibility

- Any player who is in the U9 age category or younger, may participate.

Draw Size

- Tournaments will take as many players as their facility can accommodate.
- Players who are not accepted directly will be placed on a reserve list, and in the situation that a player withdraws, will be called upon to replace them, as long as the tournament hasn't yet begun.

Tournament Format

- All draws will be done as round-robins, with an elimination playoff.
- Matches will be pro-sets to 8 games, with no-ad scoring and a seven-point tiebreak played at 7-7.
- Matches will have a maximum time limit of thirty minutes.

GENERAL

Tennis Alberta reserve the right to change all tournament formats. Any modifications made will be at the sole discretion of Tennis Alberta technical staff with final approval being issued by the Executive Director. Any modifications made will be shared in advance with Tennis Alberta stakeholders.

Tennis Alberta will make reasonable efforts to keep all information provided in this policy correct but does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of such information. All content, information and advice is provided on an "as is" basis and Tennis Alberta hereby expressly disclaims all liability for any action you may take as a result of relying on such content, information or advice or for any loss or damage suffered by you as a result of you taking this action. Tennis Alberta shall not be liable for any damages either direct, indirect, special, consequential, punitive or other damages (including but not limited to financial losses) arising out of the use or content of this Policy.

2022-23 JUNIOR COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE



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