



JUNIOR COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE

JUNIOR

Competitive Structure

Updated September 2023

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1.0 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 the tournament deadline for a non-competitive event.
- Altering the scoring format to adjust for entry numbers.

1.1 Season

INDOOR SEASON

The Indoor Season will take place from the beginning of October 2023 and continue until the middle of April 2024. It will last for approximately 29 weeks.

OUTDOOR SEASON

The Outdoor Season will take place from the middle of April 2024 and continue until the end of September 2024. It will last for approximately 23 weeks.

1.2 Registration Policies

- The registration 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 with their own unique purpose and description. The following is the breakdown of tournaments sanctioned by Tennis Alberta:

National Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provincials - 5 Stars• National Selections - 4 Stars
Provincial Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3.5 Stars• 3 Stars
Club Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Stars• Rogers Rookie Tour - 1 Star
U9/U10 Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• U10• U9

2.2 National Pathway - Road to Nationals

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

- National Pathway tournaments 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 the Provincial Championships and a minimum of one 4 Star tournament in the age group in which they wish to participate at Junior Nationals.
- 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.
- Participants will be required to attain the necessary residency requirements to be eligible to compete in Alberta Provincial Championships.
- Age eligibility is based on the calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31).

AGE CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE YEAR OF BIRTH	
	FALL 2023	2024
U12	2011 or later	2012 or later
U14	2009 or later	2010 or later
U16	2007 or later	2008 or later
U18	2005 or later	2006 or later

- 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.
- Out-of-Province players shall not be eligible to participate in National Pathway events.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- The format for each National Pathway tournament may be different but the scoring will remain consistent across the age groups.
- Main draw singles for U14, U16 and U18 will play best two of three tiebreak sets, regular scoring.
- Main draw singles for U12 will play best of three sets regular scoring with a 10-point tie break being used to decide the match at one set all.
- All qualifying and consolation matches for all age categories will play best two of three tiebreak sets, regular scoring with a 10-point tie break being used to decide the match at one set all.
- Singles scoring formats may be adjusted at any time in consultation with Tennis Alberta Staff by the Tournament Referee in case of inclement weather or other constraints associated with completing the event within the required time frame.
- Doubles for all age groups (Main Draw and, if applicable, Qualifying) will play pro sets to eight games with a seven-point tie breaker being used to decide the outcome of the match in case the match is tied at seven games all. No ad scoring shall be implemented for all doubles events.
- Doubles scoring formats may be adjusted at any time in consultation with Tennis Alberta Staff by the Tournament Referee in case of inclement weather or other constraints associated with completing the event within the required time frame.
- Players must play singles to enter doubles. Players wishing to play doubles must enter in the same age category as the singles category they are playing.(e.g., A player cannot play U12 singles and U16 doubles. They must play U12 singles and doubles.) Players entering doubles must pay the required entry fee online when registering for the tournament. Upon registering for doubles all players must email Tennis Alberta's Manager of Competitive Structure kj.read@tennisalberta.com indicating the following information:
 1. Event Entered (Name of tournament along with singles and doubles age category).
 2. Doubles partner (BOTH PLAYERS must enter independently and confirm with the Manager of Competitive Structure that they are partnering together).
- Failure to complete the above steps will lead to players not being eligible to enter doubles events. No refunds will be issued.
- Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible to receive any refund if consolation events are cancelled.
- Players competing in multiple event (i.e., singles and doubles) must be aware they may, under exceptional circumstances, be required to play up to four matches per day. The final determination pertaining to all match scheduling requirements shall rest solely with the Tournament Referee.
- 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 5:00 pm.)
- In the case of precipitation or other more severe weather 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 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:

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 selection tournament and Provincial Championships will be set according to National Rankings.

- In-town players are expected to be available starting in the early afternoon on Thursday and as early as 8:00 am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, though in most cases Friday play will begin in the early afternoon. Where possible, Out-of-town players will not be expected to play Thursday evening; however, they may be scheduled for Thursday evening in certain circumstances. Out-of-town players may be scheduled at any time for the remainder of the tournament similar to In-town players. The Tournament Director will post any special notices related to tournament draw times in the tournament notes. It is each player's responsibility to check the tournament file as match times may be subject to change particularly in case match schedules are altered due to exceptional circumstances.
- 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 must do so during the online registration process. Time requests made by phone or email will not be considered.

3.0 Provincial Championships - 5 Star

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

Provincial Championships determine the top players in Alberta and serve as an instrumental process for Alberta players to qualify for U12, U14 and U16 Junior Nationals events. Provincial Championships offer the highest point allocations.

- There will be one Provincial Championship held per age group per season.
- To qualify for U12, U14 and U16 Nationals, a player must participate in the Provincial Championship in the age group they would like to qualify.
- For U18 Junior Nationals, Tennis Canada utilize a merit-based entry system based on National Rankings which decides player eligibility per each province. Due to this, Tennis Alberta will not implement any U18 Junior Nationals selection process, formulate a provincial U18 team, or send a provincial coach to U18 Nationals events. U18 players can compete in the main draw and qualifying events at Nationals and are expected to register online through the Tennis Canada tournament system (tc.tournamentssoftware.com)) if they would like to compete at Nationals.

All questions pertaining to U18 Nationals eligibility should be directed to Tennis Canada through contacting tournaments@tenniscanada.com.

ELIBILITY

- Players will be accepted based on their ranking from highest to lowest.
- Out-of-Province players will not be accepted into Provincial Championships.
- All participants eligible to participate in Provincial Championships must be current residents of Alberta fulfilling the requirements of Tennis Alberta's [Eligibility Policy](#).
- All participants must hold Canadian Citizenship or Canadian Permanent Residency status.
- Each participant wishing to partake in Provincial Championships shall be required to provide proof of residency to Tennis Alberta staff to be eligible to enter and compete at Provincial Championship events.

DRAW SIZE

- Only the top eight 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 at the hosting club, but will be no smaller than 16 players, with eight 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. Please permit up to 30 business days after the tournament is complete for refunds to be issued.

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 until the quarter-finals. In the event of exceptional circumstances, including inclement weather, the Tournament Referee will have full discretion to cancel the consolation draw. Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible to receive any refund if consolation events are cancelled.
- Four players will be seeded in the Provincial Championships based off National Rankings.
- The doubles draws will consist of a maximum of eight teams and be played with no consolation.
- Two teams will be seeded for the doubles draw.
- All draws will consist of a first match consolation.
- Doubles will be offered at each National Pathway event. To be eligible to participate in the doubles event, all players must enter with a partner by the specified entry deadline set on the tournament registration page. Players not entered with a partner will not be eligible to participate in the doubles draw. Please refer to page 5-National Pathway tournament format section for further information pertaining to doubles eligibility and entry processes.

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 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 four spots will be awarded to four players from a qualifying draw on the first day of the event.
- The next 16 registrants will be placed in a qualifying draw, with four players moving into the main draw.
- Any player involved in the singles draw may also register for doubles.
- No Out-of-Province players will be accepted.

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 four qualifiers.
- The doubles draw will consist of a maximum of 14 teams. All players in qualifying will be eligible to maintain a place in the doubles draw (20 competitors). To be eligible to participate in the doubles event, all players must enter with a partner by the specified entry deadline set on the tournament registration page. Players not entered with a partner will not be eligible to participate in the doubles draw. Please refer to page 5 - National Pathway tournament format section for further information pertaining to doubles eligibility and entry processes.

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 four seeds.
- The doubles draw will have two seeds.
- Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible to receive any refund if consolation events are cancelled.
- Players who register but do not gain acceptance into the tournament will be issued a full refund. Please permit up to 30 business days after the tournament is complete for refunds to be issued.
- Doubles will be offered at each National Pathway event. To be eligible to participate in the doubles event, all players must enter with a partner by the specified entry deadline set on the tournament registration page. Players not entered with a partner will not be eligible to participate in the doubles draw. Please refer to page 5-National Pathway tournament format section for further information pertaining to doubles eligibility and entry processes.

5.0 Nationals Selection Process

PROCESS

- Tennis Alberta will select eight players (four male, four female) from the U12, U14 and U16 age groups to represent Tennis Alberta at Junior Nationals.
- The players will be selected based on their Singles National Rankings at a date selected and communicated in advance by Tennis Alberta following the conclusion of Provincial Championships and the subsequent updating of the National Rankings.
- Tennis Alberta will have final say on these selections as they see fit based on external 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 to receive a Tennis Alberta Junior Nationals invitation.
- Players must have participated in Singles at the Provincial Championships for the age group they are intending to represent to receive an invitation.
- Players and parents/guardians will need to be in good standing with Tennis Alberta to receive an invitation.
- If an invitation is unable to be extended to one of the top four players, the next eligible player will receive an invitation.
- If a player declines an invitation to Junior Nationals, the next eligible player will receive an invitation.
- To be eligible to represent Team Alberta at Junior Nationals events, players must hold Canadian Citizenship or Canadian Permanent Residency Status.
- For U18 Junior Nationals, Tennis Canada utilize a merit-based entry system based on National Rankings which decides player eligibility per each province. Due to this change, Tennis Alberta will not implement a U18 Junior Nationals selection process, formulate a provincial U18 team, or send a provincial coach to U18 Nationals events. U18 players can compete in the main draw and qualifying events at Junior Nationals and are expected to register online through the Tennis Canada Tournament system (tc.tournamentssoftware.com) if they would like to compete at Nationals.

**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 five results and replaced with the next highest eligible point total.
- Tennis Alberta reserves 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 at Junior Nationals. Players will need to adhere to the qualification process outlined within this document.

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 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 clubs to host these events.

ELIGIBILITY

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

AGE CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE YEAR OF BIRTH	
	FALL 2023	2024
U12	2011 or later	2012 or later
U14	2009 or later	2010 or later
U16	2007 or later	2008 or later
U18	2005 or later	2006 or later

- 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 (i.e., 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.
- For Out-of-Province players participating, Tennis Alberta has the right to modify the rankings as it pertains to tournament eligibility.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT PROVINCIAL PATHWAY

- The format for each tournament may be different but the scoring will remain consistent across all the age groups.
- All Main Draw singles for all age categories will play best two of three tie break sets, regular scoring with a 10-point tie break being used to decide the match one set all.
- All qualifying and consolation matches for all age categories will play best two of three tiebreak sets, regular scoring with a 10-point tie break being used to decide the match at one set all. Singles scoring formats may be adjusted at any time in consultation with Tennis Alberta Staff by the Tournament Referee in case of inclement weather or other constraints associated with completing the event within the required time frame.
- Doubles for all age groups (Main Draw and, if applicable, Qualifying) will play pro sets to eight games with a seven-point tie breaker being used to decide the outcome of the match in case the match is tied at even games all. No ad scoring shall be implemented for all doubles events.
- Players must enter singles to play doubles. Players wishing to play doubles must enter in the same age category as the singles category they are playing.(e.g., A player cannot play U12 singles and U16 doubles. They must play U12 singles and doubles.) Players entering doubles must pay the required entry fee online when registering for the tournament. Upon registering for doubles all players must email Tennis Alberta's Manager of Competitive Structure kj.read@tennisalberta.com indicating the following information:
 1. Event Entered (Name of tournament along with singles and doubles age category).
 2. Doubles partner (BOTH PLAYERS must enter independently and confirm with the Manager of Competitive Structure that they are partnering together).
- Failure to complete the above steps will lead to players not being eligible to enter doubles events. No refunds will be issued.

- Modified scoring may be used to shorten the event. A decision to modify the scoring shall be at the full discretion of the tournament organizer who must consult in advance with Tennis Alberta Staff.
- Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible to receive any refund if consolation events are cancelled.
- Players competing in multiple events (i.e., doubles and singles) must be aware they may under exceptional circumstances be required to play up to four matches per day. The final determination pertaining to all match scheduling requirements shall rest with the Tournament Referee.
- 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 5:00 pm.)
- In the case of precipitation or other severe weather forecasted over along 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 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:

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 in the early afternoon on Thursday and as early as 8:00 am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, though in most cases Friday play will begin in the early afternoon. Where possible, Out-of-town players will not be expected to play Thursday evening; however, they may be scheduled for Thursday evening in certain circumstances. Out-of-town players may be scheduled at any time for the remainder of the tournament similar to In-town players. The Tournament Director will post any special notices related to tournament draw times in the tournament notes. It is each player's responsibility to check the tournament file as match times may be subject to change particularly in case match schedules are altered due to exceptional circumstances.
- 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 must do so during the registration process online. Time requests made by phone or email will not be considered.

6.1 3.5 Star Tournaments

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

The 3.5 Star Tournaments are closed to the top 10 Albertan junior ranked provincial players across all age categories. 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 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 if the tournament hasn't yet begun.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- All singles draws will consist of a first match consolation. Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible to receive any refund if consolation events are cancelled.
- The scoring format for all age groups in singles will be two out of three sets with regular scoring, where a 10-point tiebreaker will be played in place of a third set. Pro sets to eight games shall be used for all consolation matches with a seven-point tie break being implemented to decide the outcome of the match at seven games all.
- Doubles will play a pro set to eight games with a seven-point tie break being used to decide the outcome of the match at seven games all. No ad scoring will be used for all doubles events offered.
- Doubles may be offered at 3.5 star category events based on court availability at the host facility. In the case doubles is offered, players will be eligible to enter via the online registration system. To be eligible to participate in doubles events, all players must enter with a partner by the specified entry deadline set on the tournament registration page. Players not entered with a partner will not be eligible to participate in doubles draws. Please refer to page 12-Provincial Pathway tournament format section for further information pertaining to doubles eligibility and entry processes.

- Players competing in multiple events (i.e., doubles and singles) must be aware they may under exceptional circumstances be required to play up to four matches per day. The final determination pertaining to all match scheduling requirements shall rest with the Tournament Referee.
- Modified scoring may be used to shorten the event. A decision to modify the scoring shall be at the full discretion of the tournament organizer who must consult in advance with Tennis Alberta Staff.
- Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible to receive any refund if consolation events are cancelled.
- 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 5:00 pm.)
- In the case of precipitation or other severe weather forecasted over along 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 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 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:

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

Seeding will be set according to National Rankings.

- In-town players are expected to be available starting in the early afternoon on Thursday and as early as 8:00 am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, though in most cases Friday play will begin in the early afternoon. Where possible, Out-of-town players will not be expected to play Thursday evening; however, they may be scheduled for Thursday evening in certain circumstances. Out-of-town players may be scheduled at any time for the remainder of the tournament similar to In-town players. The Tournament Director will post any special notices related to tournament draw times in the tournament notes. It is each player's responsibility to check the tournament file as match times may be subject to change particularly in case match schedules are altered due to exceptional circumstances.
- 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 must do so during the registration process online. Time requests made by phone or email will not be considered.

6.2 3 Star Tournaments

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

The 3 Star Tournaments are closed to the top 16 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 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 singles draws will consist of a first match consolation. Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible to receive any refund if consolation events are cancelled.
- The scoring format for all age groups in singles will be two out of three sets with regular scoring, where a 10-point tiebreaker will be played in place of a third set. Pro sets to eight games shall be used for all consolation matches with a seven-point tie break being implemented to decide the outcome of the match at seven games all.
- Doubles will play a pro set to eight games with a seven-point tie break being used to decide the outcome of the match at seven games all. No ad scoring will be used for all doubles events offered.
- Doubles may be offered at 3 star category events based on court availability at the host facility. In the case doubles is offered, players will be eligible to enter via the online registration system. To be eligible to participate in doubles events, all players must enter with a partner by the specified entry deadline set on the tournament registration page. Players not entered with a partner will not be eligible to participate in doubles draws. Please refer to page 12-Provincial Pathway tournament format section for further information pertaining to doubles eligibility and entry processes.
- Modified scoring may be used to shorten the event. A decision to modify the scoring shall be at the full discretion of the tournament organizer who must consult in advance with Tennis Alberta Staff.

- Players competing in multiple events (i.e., doubles and singles) must be aware they may under exceptional circumstances be required to play up to four matches per day. The final determination pertaining to all match scheduling requirements shall rest with the Tournament Referee.
- 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 5:00 pm.)
- In the case of precipitation or other severe weather forecasted over along 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 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 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:

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

Seeding will be set according to National Rankings.

- In-town players are expected to be available starting in the early afternoon on Thursday and as early as 8:00 am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, though in most cases Friday play will begin in the early afternoon. Where possible, Out-of-town players will not be expected to play Thursday evening; however, they may be scheduled for Thursday evening in certain circumstances. Out-of-town players may be scheduled at any time for the remainder of the tournament similar to In-town players. The Tournament Director will post any special notices related to tournament draw times in the tournament notes. It is each player's responsibility to check the tournament file as match times may be subject to change particularly in case match schedules are altered due to exceptional circumstances.
- 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 must do so during the registration process online. Time requests made by phone or email will not be considered.

7.0 Club Pathway

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Club 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.

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).

AGE CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE YEAR OF BIRTH	
	FALL 2023	2024
U12	2011 or later	2012 or later
U14	2009 or later	2010 or later
U16	2007 or later	2008 or later
U18	2005 or later	2006 or later

- 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 (i.e., 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

- All singles draws will consist of a first match consolation. Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible to receive any refund if consolation events are cancelled.
- The scoring format for all age groups in singles will be two out of three sets with regular scoring, where a 10-point tiebreaker will be played in place of a third set. Pro sets to eight games shall be used for all consolation matches with a seven-point tie break being implemented to decide the outcome of the match at seven games all.
- Doubles will play a pro set to eight games with a seven-point tie break being used to decide the outcome of the match at seven games all. No ad scoring will be used for all doubles events offered.
- Doubles may be offered at club pathway category events based on court availability at the host facility. Players must play singles to enter doubles. Players wishing to play doubles must enter in the same age category as the singles category they are playing. (e.g., A player cannot play U12 singles and U16 doubles. They must play U12 singles and doubles.) Players entering doubles must pay the required entry fee online when registering for the tournament. Upon registering for doubles all players must email Tennis Alberta's Manager of Competitive Structure kj.read@tennisalberta.com indicating the following information:
 1. Event Entered (Name of tournament along with singles and doubles age category).
 2. Doubles partner (BOTH PLAYERS must enter independently and confirm with the Manager of Competitive Structure that they are partnering together).
- Failure to complete the above steps will lead to players not being eligible to enter doubles events. No refunds will be issued.
- Players competing in doubles and singles must be aware they may under exceptional circumstances be required to play up to four matches per day. The final determination pertaining to all match scheduling requirements shall rest with the Tournament Referee.
- Modified scoring may be used to shorten the event. A decision to modify the scoring shall be at the full discretion of the tournament organizer who must consult in advance with Tennis Alberta Staff.
- 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 be played 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 5:00 pm.)

- In the case of precipitation or other severe weather forecasted over along 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 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 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:

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

Seeding will be set according to National Rankings.

- In-town players are expected to be available starting in the early afternoon on Thursday and as early as 8:00 am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, though in most cases Friday play will begin in the early afternoon. Where possible, Out-of-town players will not be expected to play Thursday evening; however, they may be scheduled for Thursday evening in certain circumstances. Out-of-town players may be scheduled at any time for the remainder of the tournament similar to In-town players. The Tournament Director will post any special notices related to tournament draw times in the tournament notes. It is each player's responsibility to check the tournament file as match times may be subject to change particularly in case match schedules are altered due to exceptional circumstances.
- 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 must do so during the registration process online. Time requests made by phone or email will not be considered.

7.1 2 Star Tournaments

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

2 Star tournaments are closed to the top 24 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 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 to replace them, as long as the tournament hasn't yet begun.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- Scoring and tournament formats shall be identical to those outlined within section 7.0 Club Pathway of this document.

7.2 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 2023	2024
U12	2011 or later	2012 or later
U14	2009 or later	2010 or later
U16	2007 or later	2008 or later
U18	2005 or later	2006 or later

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

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- The format for all age categories 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.

8.0 U9 and U10 Events

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

The purpose of U9 and U10 tournaments is to provide junior players under the age of 10 the opportunity to compete at a high level with the 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 with any other Provincial Association.
- Age eligibility is based on the calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31).

AGE CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE YEAR OF BIRTH	
	FALL 2023	2024
U10	2013 or later	2014 or later
U9	2014 or later	2015 or later

- 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 to accommodate the completion of all events.
- Players may choose to participate in both a U9/U10 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 at any time to accommodate the completion of all events.
- Players must be registered before the registration deadline to compete in the event.
- Late entries will not be accepted.

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 must do so during the registration process online. Time requests made by phone or email will not be considered.

8.1 U10 Events

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

U10 tournaments are for players who have advanced past 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 if the tournament hasn't yet begun.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- All draws will be done as round-robins, with an elimination playoff.
- Matches will be played using the best of three sets to four, and no-ad scoring. If the set reaches 3-3, a tiebreaker will be played to five, win by one, 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 45 minutes.

8.2 U9 Events

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

U9 events are 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 scheduled as round-robins, with an elimination playoff.
- Matches will be a set to eight games, with no-ad scoring and a five-point tiebreak played at 8-8.
- Matches will have a maximum time limit of 30 minutes.

9.0 General Disclaimer

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. Every attempt will be made where possible to share modifications 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 because 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.)

9.1 Refund Policy

No Refunds: Once the tournament entry fee is paid, it is non-refundable under any circumstances. This includes, but is not limited to, any participant’s inability to attend the tournament, disqualification due to rule violations, or any other reason beyond Tennis Alberta’s control.



2023-2024 JUNIOR COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE



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