



JUNIOR COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE

Updated April 2025

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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 occur from the beginning of October 2024 and continue until the middle of April 2025.

OUTDOOR SEASON

The Outdoor Season will occur from April 2025 and continue until the end of September 2025.

1.2 Registration Policies

- Registration for each tournament will open approximately three weeks before the tournament start date.
- 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.

1.3 Parent Safe Sport Education Requirements

Beginning May 1, 2025, all participants in U12 tournaments at the 2-Star sanction level and above, as well as all Rising Stars (U9/U10) participants, will be required to have at least one parent or guardian complete the **Respect in Sport for Parents** course. The course must be completed prior to the event's registration deadline.

Instructions on completing the course (including the link to complete the course), frequently asked questions, and more can be found in our policy announcement: [Tennis Alberta Announces New Sport Safety Education Requirements for Parents](#)



2.0 Nationals Selection Process

Overview

For each iteration of the Tennis Canada Junior National Championships, Tennis Alberta is provided an allotment of selection spots to distribute to our athletes, allowing them to participate in the events. The active allotment is four (4) spots in each gendered division of U12, U14, and U16 age groups.

Tennis Alberta will award these spots to athletes based on a **Hybrid Selection Process**, which utilizes both **National Rankings** and a season-long **Provincial Points Race** to yield the selected athletes. The Hybrid Selection Process is outlined below first, followed by a detailed description of each supporting system.

For U18 Junior Nationals, Tennis Canada utilizes a merit-based entry system based on National Rankings, which decides athlete eligibility per province. Due to this system, 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 athletes can compete in the main draw and qualifying events at U18 Junior Nationals and are expected to register online through the Tennis Canada Tournament System (tc.tournamentssoftware.com), if they wish to compete at U18 Junior Nationals.

Hybrid Selection Process

Tennis Alberta's Hybrid Selection Process selects athletes from each of the National Rankings and Provincial Points Race using the following process.

On the **Selections Ranking Date**, the allotted National Rankings Spots are selected first. These are awarded to the highest ranked Alberta athletes in the National Rankings who meet the **Residency Requirements, Member in Good Standing Requirements**, and **Participation Requirements** (all outlined in *National Rankings* below).

The following National Ranking Spots will be offered per age group:

- U12: 1 National Rankings Spot
- U14: 2 National Rankings Spots
- U16: 3 National Rankings Spots

Then, the Provincial Points Race Spots are selected. Any players who received a National Rankings Spot are removed from the Points Race Leaderboard. The remaining spots are awarded to the highest placed athletes on the leaderboard.

The following Provincial Points Race Spots will be offered per age group:

- U12: 3 Provincial Points Race Spots
- U14: 2 Provincial Points Race Spots
- U16: 1 Provincial Points Race Spot

In cases where an athlete declines an offered spot, the next highest ranked athlete in the system that yielded their selection will be offered the opportunity to fill their place. In the specific case of a National Ranking Spot being declined, and the next highest ranked athlete already having been awarded a Provincial Points Race Spot, the athlete in question will shift to having been awarded the National Rankings Spot and the now-vacant Provincial Points Race Spot will be awarded to the next highest ranked player from that leaderboard (i.e. the selection process essentially is redone in full, but with the declining player removed from contention).



Tennis Alberta's Order of Merit will reflect the final order in which the athletes were selected (i.e. those selected through National Rankings Spots first, followed by those selected through Provincial Points Race Spots).

Examples of the Hybrid Selection Process in action are outlined at the end of the policy.

Supporting Systems

National Rankings

Tennis Canada administers a National Rankings System, which yields ranking lists for each gendered age group, which can then be filtered by province. Tennis Alberta's athletes take part in this system and earn ranking points based on their performance in qualifying tournaments. The National Rankings System is updated weekly, taking into account the tournament results from the past week. More information about Tennis Canada's National Rankings can be found here: <https://nationalbankrankings.com/>

As outlined above, an allotment of Tennis Alberta's Nationals Selection Spots are awarded based on National Rankings, as of the **Selection Rankings Date**. The Selection Rankings Date is the first time the National Rankings are updated following the completion of the age group's Provincial Championship (5-Star) event. This is typically the Tuesday following the tournament's completion.

To be eligible for these spots, athletes must meet three eligibility criteria:

- **Residency Requirements:** Athletes must hold active Canadian Citizenship or active Canadian Permanent Residency Status.
- **Member in Good Standing Requirements:** Athletes must be an active member of Tennis Alberta. Both the player and their parents/guardians must be in good standing with Tennis Alberta.
- **Participation Requirements:** Athletes must compete in at least one (1) National Selection (4-Star) event **and** the Provincial Championships (5-Star) event in the age group they are seeking National Selection in, in the preceding selection cycle (i.e. outdoor season calendar events for Outdoor Nationals, indoor season calendar events for Indoor Nationals).

Provincial Points Race

Tennis Alberta now administers a Provincial Points Race for our athletes competing in Alberta National Pathway events (Junior 4-Star and 5-Star levels). In each Junior Nationals Cycle, a new points race is started, where our athletes compete in designated selection events to earn the allotted spots (as outlined above). This means that after each Junior National Championship, all players' points totals reset to zero and a new race begins.

A player's points total is made up from their National Ranking Points awarded from their performance at the following events:

- Their points from the current cycle's Provincial Championship (5-Star), plus;
- Their points from their best two (2) results out of the three (3) National Selection (4-Star) events (i.e. their weakest result is dropped if they play all three (3) 4-Star events)

The Provincial Points Race only considers results from its gendered age category (i.e. points from "playing up" are not considered). If a player does elect to "play up" and earns points in that age category, they will earn a separate position on that category's Points Race.



The points earned at each event will be identical to those awarded by Tennis Canada in their National Ranking (i.e. event points follow the National Ranking Points System).

Tennis Alberta will post an updated Provincial Points Race Leaderboard on our website for each gendered age group after the National Rankings are updated following each National Selection Event (4-Star). The final Leaderboard will be posted for each gendered age group after the National Rankings are updated following the Provincial Championships (5-Star).

Players that do not meet the **Residency Requirements** and **Member in Good Standing Requirements** (both outlined in *National Rankings* above) and will be removed from consideration for selection after the final Provincial Points Race Leaderboard update for the cycle is completed.

Note: In the case of a tie for the final available Provincial Points Race spot, priority will be given to the player with the higher National Ranking on the Selection Rankings Date.

Additional or Wild Card Spots

Should Tennis Canada award or offer additional National Championship spots to Tennis Alberta, they will be offered to athletes that meet all requirements in a ranked order, based on final positioning in the Provincial Points Race Leaderboard (among those athletes not already selected).

Hybrid Selection System Examples

Scenario 1: The tables below show the National Rankings and Provincial Points Race Leaderboard for an example of Girls U12 selections. Player A tops the National Rankings and meets all requirements, so she is selected first. Player A is then removed from the Points Race. Players C, B, and D are then selected based on their Points Race finishing positions.

National Rankings	
Player	Points
Player A (Selected 1st)	1200
Player B	1000
Player C	800
Player D	600

Provincial Points Race	
Player	Points
Player A (already selected)	1000
Player C (Selected 2nd)	800
Player B (Selected 3rd)	700
Player D (Selected 4th)	600

Scenario 2: The tables below show the National Rankings and Provincial Points Race Leaderboard for an example of Boys U16 selections. Player E only competed out-of-province and therefore does not meet participation requirements, so is removed from eligibility. Players F, G, and H are then selected based on their National Ranking, and Player I is selected from his Points Race finishing position.

National Rankings	
Player	Points
Player E (ineligible)	2000

Provincial Points Race	
Player	Points
Player F (already selected)	1200



Player F (Selected 1st)	1500
Player G (Selected 2nd)	1250
Player H (Selected 3rd)	1000
Player I	1000

Player G (already selected)	1100
Player H (already selected)	1000
Player I (Selected 4th)	800
Player E	0

Scenario 3: The tables below show the National Rankings and Provincial Points Race Leaderboard for an example of Girls U14 selections. After Players O and P were offered spots through National Rankings and Players Q and R were offered spots through the Points Race, Player O declined her spot. This moves Player R into the second National Ranking selection spot and allows Player S to be selected through the Points Race, please note that this places Player R above Player Q in the final Order of Merit.

National Rankings	
Player	Points
Player O (offered, declined)	2000
Player P (Selected 1st)	1800
Player R (Now Selected 2nd)	1600
Player Q	1400
Player S	1200

Provincial Points Race	
Player	Points
Player O (declined)	1800
Player P (already selected)	1600
Player Q (Selected 3rd)	1400
Player R (already selected)	1200
Player S (Selected 4th)	1000



3.0 Junior Competitive Structure

3.1. 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:

CLASSIFICATION	TOURNAMENT TYPE
National Pathway	Provincial Championship - 5-Star Nationals Selection Event - 4-Star
Provincial Pathway	3.5-Star 3-Star
Club Pathway	2-Star Rogers First Set - Rookie Tour - 1-Star
U9 / U10 Events	Rogers First Set - Rising Stars

4.0 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 organize one 5-Star Event and three 4-Star Events.
- Players must play in the Provincial Championships and at least one 4-Star tournament in the age group in which they wish to participate at Junior Nationals.
- This schedule may be subject to change.
- If any changes are made, they will be communicated to members via email newsletter 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 2024	2025
U12	2012 or 2013	2013 or 2014
U14	2010 or 2011	2011 or 2012
U16	2008 or 2009	2009 or 2010
U18	2006 or 2007	2007 or 2008



- Players can only play up to a maximum of two age groups.
 - (e.g., U12 players can play up to U16, but not U18; U10 players (**New:** and Final-Year U9 Players) can play up to U14, but not U16; All other U9 players can only enter U12)
 - Note: U9/U10 players should understand the competitive nature and purpose of these events and should only enter if they are performing at a level suitable for this event series, using a full court format and regulation ball.
- For tournaments with multiple age groups taking place simultaneously, 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

- Each National Pathway tournament's format may differ, 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 tiebreak 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 tiebreaker 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 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 make players unable to enter doubles events. No refunds will be issued.
- Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible for a refund if consolation events are cancelled.
- Players competing in multiple events (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 utilise the no-service let rule.



- Tournament organisers 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 outdoors on hardcourt.
- During the outdoor season, if there is inclement weather, the tournament organisers 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 tournament's prerogative is to have all matches played outdoors.

For tournaments with no indoor backup and 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 on a weekend that works for 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 if match schedules are altered due to exceptional circumstances.
- Players may request to play at certain times throughout the tournament. Please be advised that requests may be accommodated or denied at the Tournament Director's sole discretion. Players making time requests must do so during the online registration process. Time requests made by phone or email will not be considered.

4.1 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.



- For U18 Junior Nationals, Tennis Canada utilises a merit-based entry system based on national rankings, which decides player eligibility for 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.

ELIGIBILITY

- 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 on 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.



4.2 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 subsequent 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 for a 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 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 provide 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 2024	2025
U12	2012 or 2013	2013 or 2014
U14	2010 or 2011	2011 or 2012
U16	2008 or 2009	2009 or 2010
U18	2006 or 2007	2007 or 2008

- Players are only eligible to play up one age category.
 - U14 players cannot play U18 events
 - U12 players cannot play U16 or U18 events
 - U10 players (**New:** and Final-Year U9 Players) cannot play U14, U16 or U18 events
 - All other U9 players cannot play U12, U14, U16, or U18 events
- A player may only be permitted to play in one event for tournaments with multiple age groups (e.g., U12/U16 events).
- 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 they pertain to tournament eligibility.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT PROVINCIAL PATHWAY

- The tournament format may differ, but the scoring will remain consistent across all 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 tiebreak 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 tiebreak 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 tiebreaker being used to decide the outcome of the match in case the match is tied. No ad scoring shall be implemented for all doubles events.
- Players must enter singles to play doubles. Players wishing to play doubles must join 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 online entry fees 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 the 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 make players unable 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 organiser who must consult in advance with Tennis Alberta Staff.
 - Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible for a 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 utilise the no-service let rule.
 - Tournament organisers 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 outdoors on hardcourt.
 - During the outdoor season, if there is inclement weather, the tournament organisers will do their best to ensure the tournament continues outdoors. If there is light rain, the correct procedure is to stop matches, wait for the courts to dry, and 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 a long period of time, matches may be moved indoors. Please discuss this with the tournament referee, as the tournament's prerogative 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 organiser shall consult with Tennis Alberta about 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 on a weekend that works for 100% of the players.
2. Have the event finish as "not completed."

SEEDINGS

Seedings for each selection 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. 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, notably if match schedules are altered due to exceptional circumstances.
- If players cannot play at certain times throughout 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 Tournament Director's sole discretion. Players making time requests



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

5.1 - 3.5-Star Tournaments

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

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 matchplay 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 Alberta 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 for a 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 tiebreak 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 tiebreaker being used to determine 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 alter the scoring shall be at the full discretion of the tournament organiser, who must consult with the Tennis Alberta staff in advance.
- Players are not guaranteed a minimum of two matches and will not be eligible for a refund if consolation events are cancelled.
- All tournaments will utilise the no-service let rule.
- Tournament organisers 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 outdoors on hardcourt.



- During the outdoor season, if there is inclement weather, the tournament organisers will do their best to ensure 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 a long period of time, matches may be moved indoors. Please discuss this with the tournament referee, as the tournament's prerogative 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 organiser shall consult with Tennis Alberta about 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 on a weekend that works for 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. 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, notably if match schedules are altered due to exceptional circumstances.
- If players cannot play at certain times throughout 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 Tournament Director's sole discretion. Players making time requests must do so online during the registration process. Time requests made by phone or email will not be considered.

5.2 - 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 matchplay 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 Alberta 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 if a player withdraws, they 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 for a 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 tiebreak 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 tiebreaker being used to determine 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. If doubles is offered, players can 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 organiser, who must consult with the Tennis Alberta staff in advance.
- Players competing in multiple events (i.e., doubles and singles) must be aware they may be required to play up to four matches per day under exceptional circumstances. The final determination pertaining to all match scheduling requirements shall rest with the Tournament Referee.
- All tournaments will utilise the no-service let rule.
- Tournament organisers 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 outdoors on hardcourt.
- During the outdoor season, if there is inclement weather, the tournament organisers will do their best to ensure the tournament continues outdoors.
- If there is light rain, the correct procedure is to stop matches, wait for the courts to dry, and 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 a long period, matches may be moved indoors. Please discuss this with the tournament referee, as the tournament's prerogative 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 organiser shall consult with Tennis Alberta about 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 on a weekend that works for 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. 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, notably if match schedules are altered due to exceptional circumstances.
- If players cannot play at certain times throughout 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 Tournament Director's sole discretion. Players making time requests must do so online during the registration process. Time requests made by phone or email will not be considered.

6.0 Club Pathway

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Club Pathway is to offer opportunities to entry-level players to begin their tennis careers by 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 2024	2025
U12	2012 or 2013	2013 or 2014
U14	2010 or 2011	2011 or 2012
U16	2008 or 2009	2009 or 2010
U18	2006 or 2007	2007 or 2008

- 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 (**New:** and Final-Year U9 Players) may not play U14, U16 or U18
 - All other U9 players cannot play U12, U14, U16, or U18 events



- A player may only be permitted to play in one event for tournaments with multiple age groups (e.g., U12 / U16).
- 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 for a 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 tiebreak 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 tiebreaker being used to determine 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 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 online entry fees when registering for the tournament. Upon registering for doubles, all players must email Tennis Alberta's Manager of Competitive Structure at kj.read@tennisalberta.com indicating the following information:
 1. Event Entered (Name of the 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 make players unable to enter doubles events. No refunds will be issued.
- Players competing in doubles and singles must be aware they may be required to play up to four matches per day under exceptional circumstances. 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 organiser, who must consult with Tennis Alberta staff in advance.
- All tournaments will utilise the no-service let rule.
- Tournament organisers will do their best to ensure that the tournament is completed on the appropriate surface. If a tournament is registered as outdoor hardcourt, all matches are expected to be played outdoors on hardcourt.
- During the outdoor season, if there is inclement weather, the tournament organisers will do their best to ensure the tournament continues outdoors.
- If there is light rain, the correct procedure is to stop matches, wait for the courts to dry, and 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 a long period, matches may be moved indoors. Please discuss this with the tournament referee, as the tournament's prerogative 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 organiser shall consult with Tennis Alberta about 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 on a weekend that works for 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. 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, notably if match schedules are altered due to exceptional circumstances.
- If players cannot play at certain times throughout 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 Tournament Director's sole discretion. Players making time requests must do so online during the registration process. Time requests made by phone or email will not be considered.

6.1 - 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 matchplay 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 Alberta 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 if a player withdraws, they will be replaced 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.

6.2 - Rogers First Set - Rookie Tours

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

Roger Rookie Tours are events held for players with little to no tennis experience to introduce 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 2024	2025
U12	2012 or later	2013 or later
U14	2010 or later	2011 or later
U16	2008 or later	2009 or later
U18	2006 or later	2007 or later

- Players who have competed in three ranking tournaments will not be allowed to participate in Rookie events.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- The format for all age categories will utilise timed matches and modified scoring.
- All tournaments will use the no-service let rule.
- All tournaments will be held in a round-robin format unless discussed with the Tournament Coordinator.
- Tournaments are expected to be able to be successfully started and completed on the same day. Exceptions may be made for larger draws.

7.0 - 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.
- Players should already be training and be comfortable competing at the Orange Ball 3/4 Court level (for U9 Events) or the Green Ball Full Court level (for U10 events). If Tournament Organizers report to Tennis Alberta that an entrant is not ready for these events, they may be restricted from participating in future Rising Stars events for the remainder of the season.
- Age eligibility is based on the calendar year (Jan 01 to Dec 31).

AGE CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE YEAR OF BIRTH	
	FALL 2024	2025
U9	2015-2018	2016-2019
U10	2014	2015



- 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 simultaneously, the player may be asked to choose one or the other. In conjunction with Tennis Alberta, the tournament director reserves the right to change this rule to accommodate the completion of all events.
- Players may not participate in either a U9/U10 tournament and a ranking tournament on the same weekend.
- 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 utilise timed matches and modified scoring.
- All tournaments will use the no-service let rule.
- All tournaments will be held in a round-robin format unless discussed with the Tournament Coordinator.
- Tournaments are expected to be able to be successfully started and completed on the same day. Exceptions may be made for larger draws.

7.1 - Rogers First Set - Rising Stars 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 in the U10 age category may participate.

DRAW SIZE

- Tournament draw sizes are a maximum of 16 per gender for U10s.
- 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 if a player withdraws, they 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 a set to eight games, with no-ad scoring and a five-point tiebreak played at 7-7.
- Matches will have a maximum time limit of 45 minutes.

7.2 - Rogers First Set - Rising Stars U9 Events

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

U9 events are for players who have advanced past Red Ball Tennis and want to start playing competitively on the 3/4 Court with Orange Balls. U9 draws consist of both genders and are not segregated.

ELIGIBILITY

- Any player in the U9 age category may participate.

DRAW SIZE

- The tournament draw size will be a maximum of 16 entries
- 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 if a player withdraws, they 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 7-7.
- Matches will have a maximum time limit of 30 minutes.

8.0 General Disclaimer

Tennis Alberta reserves 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 are 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 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.)

8.1 Refund Policy

No refunds: Once the tournament entry fee is paid and the withdrawal deadline has passed, 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.