



Tennis Alberta Junior Nationals Selection Policy

In Effect: April 10, 2025

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

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