

12 & Under Tennis Europe Junior Tour – 2019 Restructure

Tennis Europe is delighted to announce the completion of a detailed review of the 12 & Under Tennis Europe Junior Tour. The organisation is now ready to implement changes to the Tour to ensure that the junior game is ideally structured and operates in the optimal way to provide appropriate opportunities for all current and future players.

Tennis Europe has responded to the need to diversify the opportunities available for players and organisers of 12 & Under events. By establishing different levels of hospitality and offering more matches for our young players through innovative formats, we will boost the geographical distribution of tournaments. More nations will be able to create events, while existing tournaments are able to maintain (or even boost) their stature. In a competitive marketplace with new commercial entities offering international tennis playing opportunities, the dynamism of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour's 12 & Under age group is key to its success.

Surveys were conducted to canvass the opinions of national associations, tournament organisers, referees, players and parents. At the 2017 Tennis Europe Junior Tour Conference, the 12 & Under Tour was discussed extensively by participants, and a consultative Coaches' Working Group was also formed. The Tennis Europe Junior Committee has evaluated this data, and thoroughly investigated the major issues facing organisers and competitors. Their findings led to a Tennis Europe Board of Management decision and subsequent announcement of the new structure at the 2018 Tennis Europe Annual General Meeting in Budapest, Hungary.

As a result, from 2019 onwards the 12 & Under Tennis Europe Junior Tour will implement two tournament categories instead of the one that is currently in place. The table below further highlights the current structure as has been in place from 2000-2018 and the changes that will be carried out when the new structure is introduced from 2019 onwards. ●

	2000-2018 Current Structure	2019 and onwards New Structure	
Category	Category 3	Category 1	Category 2
Level	Top level events and established events of proven quality and level of entries/first time entry level	Top level events	Established events of proven quality and level of entries/first time entry level
Format	Elimination Draw or Round Robin	Elimination Draw	Round Robin with Play Off
Main Draw size	32, 48 and 64	32, 48 and 64	32
Qualifying Draw size	Optional 32	Mandatory 32	Optional 16 (Round Robin) or 32 (Direct Elimination)
Doubles	Half of the Main Draw (Direct Elimination)	Half of the Main Draw (Direct Elimination)	Half of the Main Draw (Direct Elimination)
Consolation (Bonus Draw)	Mandatory for players losing their first Main Draw match	Mandatory for players losing their first Main Draw match	No Consolation (Bonus Draw)
Scoring system	Main Draw: Best of three (3) tiebreak sets Qualifying: Best of three (3) tiebreak sets	Main Draw: Best of three (3) tiebreak sets Qualifying: Best of three (3) tiebreak sets	Main Draw: best of 3 sets (2 tie-break sets and a 10-point Match tiebreak) Qualifying: best of 3 sets (2 tie-break sets and a 10-point Match tiebreak)

	Doubles: two (2) tiebreak sets with NoAd-scoring and, if required, a 10-point Match Tiebreak. Consolation: played either as best of three (3) tiebreak sets, or two (2) tiebreak sets with 'traditional' scoring and a 10-point Match tiebreak, or best of three (3) Short Sets.	Doubles: two (2) tiebreak sets with NoAd-scoring and, if required, a 10-point Match Tiebreak. Bonus Draw (Consolation Draw): played either as best of three (3) tiebreak sets, or two (2) tiebreak sets with 'traditional' scoring and a 10-point Match tiebreak, or best of three (3) Short Sets.	Doubles: two (2) tiebreak sets with NoAd-scoring and, if required, a 10-point Match Tiebreak. No Bonus Draw (no Consolation Draw)
Main Draw – At least -minimum number of matches	Minimum 2 Singles and 1 Doubles	Minimum 2 Singles and 1 Doubles	Minimum 3 Singles and 1 Doubles
Hospitality	Minimum for National Squads: Free hospitality until last member of the squad is eliminated	Minimum For National Squads: Free hospitality until last member of the squad is eliminated.	Minimum For National Squads: Free lunch and dinner until last member of the squad is eliminated.
Schedule	Main Draw: maximum 1 singles and 1 Doubles per day (subject to weather conditions)	Main Draw: maximum 1 singles and 1 Doubles per day (subject to weather conditions)	Day 1: 2 singles matches will be played (no Doubles, subject to number of courts) From Day 2: maximum 1 singles and 1 Doubles per day
Duration	Minimum 5 days Main Draw + 2 days Qualifying	Minimum 5 days Main Draw + 2 days Qualifying	Minimum 5 days Main Draw + 2 days Qualifying if any
Starting points	Starting points	Higher starting points (tbc)	Starting points (tbc)
Players entries	Maximum one event per week	Maximum two entries per week: with restrictions tba	Maximum two entries per week: with restrictions tba
Tournaments played per week	One (1)	One (1)	One (1)
Number of courts	Minimum 6 courts (for 32 and 48 draw sizes). Minimum 8 courts (for 64 draw sizes). The numbers may be reduced for indoor tournaments with the approval of Tennis Europe.	Minimum 6 courts (for 32 and 48 draw sizes). Minimum 8 courts (for 64 draw sizes). The numbers may be reduced for indoor tournaments with the approval of Tennis Europe.	Minimum 6 courts. The numbers may be reduced for indoor tournaments with the approval of Tennis Europe.
Calendar	Five (5) category 3 per week	One (1) category 1 per week	Four (4) category 2 events per week
Medical staff	Strongly recommended 1 Sports Physiotherapist on-site at all time during play	Mandatory 1 Sports Physiotherapist on-site at all time during play	Strongly recommended 1 Sports Physiotherapist on-site at all time during play
Player entry fee	Maximum 50 euros	Maximum 60 euros	Maximum 45 euros