

**MUNSTER BRANCH OF TENNIS IRELAND  
WINTER LEAGUE 2017/2018  
RULES**

**1. RULES:**

- 1.1. The following rules shall apply to the Winter League Competitions 2017/2018 organised by the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland. Any breach of these rules may result in a fine, suspension or disqualification from the competition.
- 1.2. All matches shall be governed by the Rules of Tennis as published by the International Tennis Federation.
- 1.3. The conduct of players and spectators shall be governed by the Codes of Conduct for Players and Spectators approved by Tennis Ireland. A copy of each of these documents should be available at the venue.
- 1.4. Common courtesy is expected of all clubs towards visiting teams.
- 1.5. The Competitions Committee shall have power to deal with any matter which may arise in connection with this competition and which is not provided for in these rules.
- 1.6. These Competitions shall be subject to the Tennis Ireland Complaints Objections and Disciplinary Rules and Procedures. with the exception of Cl. 3.3.1 (a) of Part 2 (The Procedures) which shall be amended to read "Submitted in writing by Registered Post to the Administrator of the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland" and Cl. 3.3.1 (b) which shall be amended to read "48 hours" instead of "30 minutes" . Note that these changes have been agreed with Tennis Ireland.
- 1.7. The failure of the opposing team, the Competitions Committee or the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland to identify a breach of these rules shall not of itself negate the breach. Any breach discovered at any time will result in a sanction to be decided by the Competitions Committee including but not limited to disqualification from the competition.
- 1.8. The "Home" team will be required to have a copy of these Rules together with a copy of the current Rules of Tennis as published by International Tennis Federation available at the venue.
- 1.9. In doubles matches where all attempts to get a Munster Branch approved official to umpire the match have failed the receiver's partner may call a foot fault where the server is in flagrant breach of Rule 18 (b) of the ITF Rules of Tennis 2014. Before any such foot-fault is called in a match the receiver's partner must, in the hearing of all four players, warn the server that he/she has been in breach of Rule 18 (b) and that the receiver's partner will call a foot-fault for all subsequent breaches for the remainder of the match. Where necessary this verbal warning must be issued to any server who breaches the rule prior to a foot fault being called against them. The receiver's partner must be standing between the service line and the net when calling a foot fault under Rule 18(b). The procedure for calling foot-faults under Rule 18(a) Rule 18(c) and 18(d) shall remain as per the ITF Duties & Procedures for Officials 2014.

## 2. COMPETITIONS:

- 2.1. In the event that the entry in any of the events is deemed by the Competitions Committee to be too small to use the standard League/knockout format described herein the format may be changed or the event cancelled. The decision of the Competitions Committee in this regard shall be final. Specific rules attaching to any changed format will be issued with the details of the draw for that event.
- 2.2. Subject to Rule 2.1 this event shall be run on a combination league/knock-out draw basis.
- 2.3. The league section of the competition shall be run as follows: all of the entrants shall be arranged in groups of 4 teams. Where necessary the Competitions Committee may change this number to 3 or 5 teams. Within each group each team will play each of the other teams in the group twice - once at their own club (Home fixture) and once at the other team's club (Away fixture).
- 2.4. Each team will be awarded one point for each match won in a fixture. The two teams with the highest number of points in each group at the end of league section of the competition will qualify for entry into the knock-out section of the competition.
- 2.5. **In the event that there are a number of teams in a group on equal points the teams to qualify will be decided as follows:-**
  - (a) Firstly the criteria used will be, number of wins, draws, and losses.**
  - (b) Secondly, the number of sets won by each team will be used**
  - (c) Thirdly the number of games won by each team will be used**
  - (d) Fourthly a play off will be used**
- 2.6. In the knock-out section of the competition the top team drawn shall have choice of venue in the first round. In the second and later rounds the team who did not have choice in the previous round shall have choice. A bye or walk-over counts as having choice of venue. Where both or neither had choice in the previous round, the top team shall have choice.
- 2.7. The format of the fixtures in the knock-out section of the competition shall be exactly as for the league section. Each team will be awarded a point for each match won in a fixture. The team with the highest number of points will move forward to the next round. However in the knock out section of the competition where both teams have the same number of points at the end of the matches a mixed doubles decider will be played in mixed events, a mens doubles decider in mens event and a ladies doubles decider in the ladies events. In case of a decider it will consist of 1 tie break set to be played between a pair from each team made up of players who have not already played together in the fixture.
- 2.8. At all stages of the competition (both league and knock-out) all matches in a fixture must be completed.
- 2.9. A match shall be the best of 3 tiebreak sets.

## 3. ELIGIBILITY:

- 3.1. Only Clubs and Bodies who are Members of Tennis Ireland may enter this competition. Any club entering the competition must have paid all Affiliation fees, Player Capitation fees and Tournament Capitation fees (where applicable) in respect of all years up to December 31st of the year immediately preceding the

year in which this competition commences. Any club entering this competition must have paid all Affiliation fees in respect of the current year.

- 3.2. Eligible players may play in this competition for any one club of which they are a member. **A player must be a member of a club for at least 3 months prior to a fixture.** In the event that a player is listed in two different grades in the Munster Branch Players Directory his grade for the purposes of this competition shall be deemed to be the higher grade.
- 3.3. If a club wishes to use a player who is not listed in the current Munster Branch Players' Directory they may do so provided an application to register the player is received by the Munster Branch Administrator at least 7 days prior to the fixture in which it is intended to use the unlisted player. *(Refer to the Munster Branch Player Directory Rules for details of making an application to register a player).*
- 3.4. All players taking part in this competition must be registered on the National Player Database (NPD) and must have their unique Tennis Ireland PIN No.
- 3.5. Players may only play for one club in this event
- 3.6. Players may play in one final only on finals' day.
- 3.7. A Club entering more than one team in an event shall treat each team as if it were drawn from a different club. i.e. there shall be no inter-change of players or substitutes between teams.
- 3.8. No player may play below his/her own grade. Players may play in any grade above their own grade in addition to playing in their own grade.
- 3.9. Players who are re-graded upwards in the course of this competition must play in their new grade or any grade above their new grade from the date of their re-grading.
- 3.10. All reference to grades are to grades as they appear in the Munster Branch Players Directory.
- 3.11. Any team which uses a player who is not eligible to play under the rules of this competition shall forfeit all matches won in which the ineligible player took part. The ineligible player shall be prohibited from taking part in any of the events at any grade in this competition in the year in which the offence occurred.

#### **4. ENTRIES:**

- 4.1. The Competitions Committee reserves the right to refuse to accept an entry to any of the events in this competition. Any entries not accepted by the Competitions Committee will have their entry fee refunded.
- 4.2. In the case of Clubs entering more than one team in any event please note that only the "First Choice" team as per the entry form is guaranteed a place. The inclusion of any of the other teams entered by the club in the same event is at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.
- 4.3. Entries should be submitted to the Administrator of the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland no later than 5.00pm on Friday **13<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.**

- 4.4. The entry fees shall be €60 Euro per team.
- 4.5. A club which intends to use eligible junior players in any of the events in which juniors are allowed to play {ITN 4 (Premier-Grade 1) & ITN 5 (Grade 2)} must submit the names and dates of birth of all intended players with their entry. The Competitions Committee will review the submitted list and notify the entrant of the junior players on this list that it approves to play in this competition. The use of a junior player without such approval shall render the club liable to disqualification.
- 4.6. Copies of the approved player panels referred to in Rule 4.5 will be available to all entrants on request to the Administrator of the Munster Branch.
- 4.7. Entries will not be accepted unless the full appropriate entry fee is submitted with the entry.

## 5. FIXTURES:

- 5.1. Fixtures shall be played at 2.00pm (or at 12.00 noon in the case of clubs covered by rule 5.11) on the date specified by the Competitions Committee as shown on the draw sheets. Fixtures may be played before the specified date provided both clubs are in agreement to do so. Clubs are not obliged to agree to any request from the opposing team to change the date of the fixture specified by the Competitions Committee. However, having agreed to change either the time or date, then this becomes the official time and date of the fixture. Only the nominated contact as listed on the official contact list or an alternative contact as per Rule 5.2 may arrange an alternative date in advance of the date specified for the fixture by the Competitions Committee. Details of any agreed changes to the date and/or time of any fixture must be notified to the Administrator of Munster Branch by the team requesting the change a minimum of 3 days before the new date of the fixture.
- 5.2. Arrangements in regard to fixtures are to be made by the person listed by the club as the contact in the official entry form. An alternative contact can be substituted by notifying the Administrator of the Munster Branch and each of the official contacts of the teams in the group a minimum of 7 days before the commencement of the competition.
- 5.3. A postponement of a fixture can only be granted by the Competitions Committee. The Competitions Committee may permit a postponement in very exceptional circumstances. Any Club taking a postponement without permission may be disqualified from the Competition.
- 5.4. All members of a team must be available for play at the agreed commencement time. In the event of a player being more than 15 minutes later than the agreed time, such player shall forfeit the first of his/her matches to the opposing team. In the event of a player being more than 30 minutes later than the agreed time, such player shall forfeit both of his/her matches to the opposing team.
- 5.5. A team who gives a walk-over in the league section of the event will automatically be disqualified. All scores from previous matches in which they were involved will be disregarded for the league section of the event. ***In addition a fine to be decided by the Competitions Committee will be imposed on the Club represented by the team in question.***

- 5.6. The 'Home' venue means the courts in which the club which is represented by the team is based and not borrowed courts, except under exceptional circumstances and by mutual agreement between the two teams. **2 courts must be available for the start time for each fixture. Clubs need to plan ahead for each weekend to determine how many home matches they have and where necessary at an early stage consider swapping home/away fixtures or changing the date of the fixture if required to ensure the correct number of courts will be available.**
- 5.7. In the event that the Home club cannot provide courts for their "Home" fixture as per the official draw the Home and Away fixtures as per the official draw may be re-arranged by mutual agreement between the two teams involved. If no agreement is reached the fixture shall be played at the "Away" club's courts. The "Home" team then forfeits their "Home" fixture.
- 5.8. The Home club shall have basic toilet and shower facilities available at the venue. Any legitimate complaints in regard to facilities will result in loss of 'Home' advantage for future matches. **Clubs without such facilities may enter the competition but all of their matches must be played at the clubs against whom they are drawn.**
- 5.9. The Home Club shall ensure that courts are up to standard i.e. Nets, Centre-Strap, well lined and surfaces free from obstacles. Any legitimate complaints will result in loss of 'Home' advantage for future matches.
- 5.10. The Home team shall provide new balls which must conform to Appendix 1 of the Rules of Tennis.
- 5.11. Fixtures being held at venues without flood-lit courts must commence no later than 12 noon. All other fixtures are to commence at 2pm or at another mutually agreed time. No club may be required to play before 11 a.m.
- 5.12. The full fixture result shall be returned to the Munster Branch office by the winning team captain or the home teams captain in the event of a draw, within 48 hours of the completion of the fixture. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a sanction being imposed by the Competition Committee on the team responsible for returning the result and/or the club which it represents.
- 5.13. All junior players must be clearly indicated on the Result Sheet

## 6. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:

- 6.1. **Convenor Competitions Committee 2017/2018:  
Eddie Ronayne (Rushbrooke LTCC) – 086 8364153  
Administrator: Maggie O Toole – Phone/Fax: 021-4354829: Mon-Fri 9.30 a.m.  
to 5.00 p.m. Email: admin@munstertennis.ie**
- 6.2. The address for correspondence is **The Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland, 4, Eastgate Avenue, Little Island, Co. Cork.**

## 7. GENERAL:

- 7.1. Perpetual Trophies shall be presented to the winners in events. These trophies remain the property of the Munster Branch and shall be held in Trust by the winning Club for the Munster Branch of Tennis Ireland.

## **8. FINALS:**

8.1. Munster Branch in conjunction with the competitions committee shall decide on a date and venue for the finals. Once the date is published, it will not be changed. This rule will be enforced regardless of any previous precedent.

## **9. ITN 4 (Premier –Grade 1) Mixed**

9.1 The ITN 4 (Premier-Grade 1) event is open to all players who are over 18 years on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules. It is also open to any player who is 18 years or less on December 31st in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences whose name has been submitted to and approved to take part in the competition by the Competitions Committee.

9.2 A team shall consist of 2 Ladies and 2 Men.

9.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches - 1 men's singles, 1 ladies' singles and 1 mixed doubles followed by 1 mens' and 1 ladies' doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

9.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles and mixed doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

## **10. ITN 5 (Grade 2) Mixed**

10.1 The ITN 5 (Grade 2) event is open to all players who are over 18 years on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

10.2 Players who are over 16 years on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year immediately preceding the year in which the competitions covered by these rules commences are eligible to play in the ITN 5/Grade 2 event only provided they (a) have never played on a Provincial or National Junior team or (b) have not qualified to compete in a National Matchplay in the 2 years immediately preceding the year in which these competitions commence.

10.3 A team shall consist of 2 Ladies and 2 Men.

10.4 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches - 1 men's singles, 1 ladies' singles and 1 mixed doubles followed by 1 mens' and 1 ladies' doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

10.5 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles and mixed doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

## **11. ITN 6 (Grade 3) Ladies**

11.1 The ITN 6 (Grade 3) Ladies event is open to all female players who are over 18 years of age on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

11.2 A team shall consist of 4 Ladies.

11.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches – 4 ladies doubles, (the two pairings on each team will play each of the two pairings on the other team).

11.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

## **12. ITN 6 (Grade 3) Mens**

12.1 The ITN 6 (Grade 3) Mens event is open to all male players who are over 18 years of age on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

12.2 A team shall consist of 4 Men.

12.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches – 4 mens doubles, (the two pairings on each team will play each of the two pairings on the other team).

12.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

## **13. ITN 6 (Grade 3) Mixed**

13.1 The ITN 6 (Grade 3) Mixed event is open to all players who are over 18 years of age on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

13.2 A team shall consist of 2 Ladies and 2 Men.

13.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches – 1 men's doubles, 1 ladies' doubles followed by 2 mixed doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

13.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles and mixed doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

## **14. ITN 7 (Grade 4) Ladies**

14.1 The ITN 7 (Grade 4) Ladies event is open to all female players who are over 18 years of age on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

14.2 A team shall consist of 4 Ladies.

14.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches – 4 ladies doubles, (the two pairings on each team will play each of the two pairings on the other team).

14.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

**15. ITN 7 (Grade 4) Mens**

15.1 The ITN 7 (Grade 4) Mens event is open to all male players who are over 18 years of age on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

15.2 A team shall consist of 4 Men.

15.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches – 4 mens doubles, (the two pairings on each team will play each of the two pairings on the other team).

15.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

**16. ITN 7 (Grade 4) Mixed**

16.1 The ITN 7 (Grade 4) Mixed event is open to all players who are over 18 years of age on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

16.2 A team shall consist of 2 Ladies and 2 Men.

16.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches – 1 men's doubles, 1 ladies' doubles followed by 2 mixed doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

16.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles and mixed doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

**17. ITN 8 (Grade 5) Ladies**



17.1 The ITN 8 (Grade 5) Ladies event is open to all female players who are over 18 years of age on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

17.2 A team shall consist of 4 Ladies.

17.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches – 4 ladies doubles, (the two pairings on each team will play each of the two pairings on the other team).

17.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

**18. ITN 8 (Grade 5) Mens**

18.1 The ITN 8 (Grade 5) Mens event is open to all male players who are over 18 years of age on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

18.2 A team shall consist of 4 Men.

18.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches – 4 mens doubles, (the two pairings on each team will play each of the two pairings on the other team).

18.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

**19. ITN 8 (Grade 5) Mixed**

19.1 The ITN 8 (Grade 5) Mixed event is open to all players who are over 18 years of age on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

19.2 A team shall consist of 2 Ladies and 2 Men.

19.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches – 1 men's doubles, 1 ladies' doubles followed by 2 mixed doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

19.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles and mixed doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

**20. ITN 9 (Grade 6) Ladies**

20.1 The ITN 9 (Grade 6) Ladies event is open to all female players who are over 18 years of age on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

20.2 A team shall consist of 4 Ladies.

20.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches – 4 ladies doubles, (the two pairings on each team will play each of the two pairings on the other team).

20.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

## **21. ITN 9 (Grade 6) Mens**

21.1 The ITN 9 (Grade 6) Mens event is open to all male players who are over 18 years of age on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

21.2 A team shall consist of 4 Men.

21.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches – 4 mens doubles, (the two pairings on each team will play each of the two pairings on the other team).

21.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.

## **22. ITN 9 (Grade 6) Mixed**

22.1 The ITN 9 (Grade 6) Mixed event is open to all players who are over 18 years of age on the date of entry for the competitions provided they are listed in the current Munster Branch Players Directory or have submitted a complete application to be listed in the Directory in accordance with Rule 3.3 of these rules.

22.2 A team shall consist of 2 Ladies and 2 Men.

22.3 Each fixture in this competition will consist of the following matches – 1 men's doubles, 1 ladies' doubles followed by 2 mixed doubles. The matches shall be played in the foregoing order.

22.4 Teams may decide their composition on the day of the fixture. The Captain of each team will provide to the captain of the opposing team a fully completed team sheet showing players names, grade, the composition of all the doubles and mixed doubles pairings. The completed team sheets shall be exchanged immediately prior to the commencement of the fixture.