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10 November 2014

2014/2015 JUNIOR RULE AMENDMENTS

Dear Parent, Player and Coach,

Please note that following the recent Junior Workshop which was held 18 & 19 October, the following Rule Amendments have been made, effective 1 December 2014 or as otherwise indicated:

1. 10 and Under Tournaments

- 10 and Under participants to feel part of the tournament, by having their semi finals and finals played at the Main Venue on the same days as the older age groups
- TSA to advise tournaments on 10 and Under format, based on entries. Round Robin formats will be emphasised and be used most of the times. Sets to be played in Semi Finals and Finals only
- 10 and Under participants wishing to play up to 12 and Under, who are not within the 3 months of their birthday may do so by:
 - Applying for exemption to play in the 12 and Under age group at Provincial 12 and Under Mini Series Tournament, to the local Junior Committee prior to the entry deadline
 - Based on performance at the Provincial tournament, the player may be granted an Exemption to play up at three (3) additional tournaments
 - Player may play a maximum of four (4) tournaments in a year while in the 10 and Under Age group
 - Rankings achieved when playing up in 12 and Under section will not be displayed (if IT System can be amended)
 - An internal seeding list will be compiled based on 10 and Under results. This will assist with drawing of players into respective groups. The objective is to try and separate the stronger players from being in the same group
 - Element of fun to be introduced to the 10 and Under section and the tournament need not run for the entire day/tournament

2. 12 and Under Tournaments

- All TSA 12 and Under Tournaments will be played with the Green Dot Ball
- While the use of the Green Dot Ball is compulsory for 10 and Under Tournaments, the reasons for the rule change on the category of tennis ball were:
 - The ITF rule for 10 and Under has been in operation in South Africa for the last two (2) years
 - The ITF has proposed to its Member countries to also extend the use of the Green Dot Ball to other age groups at sanctioned tournaments
 - From the early results of the 10 and Under Rule, many countries have seen a spectacular increase in the quality of technical and tactical play of these players
 - TSA in conjunction with SASCOC has adopted a Long Term Player Development Pathway (LTPD) and in terms of that model the learn to train phase which incorporated 12 and Under

Board of Directors:

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- tennis is one of the most important times to develop sound technique on all strokes
- In all reports coming back about South Africa players, playing overseas, the common denominators are; inability to rally consistently and poor tactical play
 - In the much vaunted Spanish system, the factors attributing to its success are listed as follows:
 - Slowness of playing conditions
 - Lower bounce of the ball
 - Natural development of racket head speed
 - Learning the chess of tactics naturally
 - Playing on balance more regularly
 - The aim of this rule change is to develop the quality of tennis players for the future, which in turn will lead to greater enjoyment and players staying in the game longer
- 3. Withdrawals / Retirements / Release Forms & Ranking Principals**
- Tournaments MUST appoint an official Tournament Doctor (stand by) / Clinic or Hospital at which medical certificates can be completed/obtained when a player has retired from a match and needs to withdraw from remaining event or in the case of a player wanting to withdraw from the tournament. Only medical certificates from the appointed Doctor etc will be accepted
 - Players will receive one free late withdrawal per year. Further Late Withdrawals will be handled on a case by case situation and requires a Medical Certificate
 - On site withdrawals will only be accepted/ valid if completed by the tournament Doctor / Clinic or Hospital and the TSA Medical Certificate (obtainable onsite) is also attached to the certificate
 - Ranking points will only be awarded if a player completes the tournament in full as entry to a tournament is for the full duration
 - In the event of a player having to withdraw due to injury, ranking points will only be awarded if the necessary medical documentation is correctly submitted before leaving the tournament venue for the last time. Faxed medical certificates will not be accepted
 - Entry fees for late withdrawals still need to be paid if the draws have been done
- 4. Junior Nationals & March / April 2015 Calendar**
- The 2015 Junior Nationals will take place in Bloemfontein in April 2015
 - The Free State TSA Series Event (KeyHealth) will also move to April 2015
 - Date for March / April 2015 events are:
 - 27 March to 1 April - Primary Schools Week in Bloemfontein
 - 27 March to 1 April - High Schools Week in Bloemfontein
 - 2 to 7 April – Junior Nationals in Bloemfontein
 - 8 to 12 April – Free State TSA Series Event in Bloemfontein
 - While the tender documents for the above events to take place in 2016 will be circulated during February, the events will be held in April 2016 School Holidays in the following order:

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- TSA Circuit Event of Province which tender and is awarded the Junior Nationals and either Primary or High Schools week
- Junior Nationals
- Primary & High School Week

5. Junior Masters

- TSA Junior Masters to take place in October 2015 and will be played over 4 days
- Tender document will be circulated for Provinces to tender to host the event. Province tendering may apply to host a One Ranking Tournament at the same time
- Top 10 based on combined ranking of each age group, plus 2 wild cards will form the 12 players accepted
- Rankings on Monday 8 weeks prior to the Masters date will be the acceptance rankings
- Round Robin format with two group of 6 players, cross over semi finals and finals along with Play Off Matches
- All tournaments will count towards the acceptance and ranking produced 8 weeks prior to event

6. Tournament Formats

TSA Series Events (KeyHealth) / Junior Nationals

- Current Monrad format to be amended as follows:
 - Players losing their 1st match will progress into a Consolation draw
 - Second round losers will play a continual Feed-in event, enabling players that lose in respective rounds up until the semi-finals to stand a change to finish in 3rd position overall
 - Players losing in the Consolation event will no longer play off for final positions
 - Boys & Girls Doubles events will have a Consolation event for players losing their 1st doubles Match i.e. Players will be guaranteed a minimum of 2 doubles matches
 - Mixed Doubles is being introduced for all age groups. Seedings will be based on the combined doubles rankings of the two (2) player. 20% of the Mixed Doubles points earned will count towards the total ranking points used for the event / ranking

Provincial / Mini Series Events

- Monrad Format to remain, with Play Off Matches to final positions
- Provinces to host at least one (1) One Ranking Tournament

7. Playing Out of Age Group

- Players playing out of age group will only earn points of the higher age group (age group competing in) if:
 - 56 Draw's: the player reaches the quarter finals or better
 - 32 Draw's: the player reaches the semi-finals or better
 - 16 / 8 Draw's: the player reaches the finals
 - The main principal is that a player needs to be able to win 3 rounds before qualifying to be

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awarded the higher ranking points. This also removed the anomalies of winning a 1st round match by walk over or retirement

- In all other cases, points will revert back and be allocated based on the actual age group, based on final position achieved

 - The above will come into effect when Guaranteed Strength's are awarded to the TSA Series Events
- 8. Doubles Sign-in Times**
- Boys and Girls Doubles sign-in to close at 10:00 on first day of tournament. Same entry procedures as in 2014, however the time is now being moved to allow for doubles to take place on first day
 - Mixed Doubles sign-in to close at 12:00 on first day of tournament.

The rule amendments will be added to the 2014/2015 TSA Rule Book shortly.

Kind Regards

TSA Junior Committee

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